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DEC. 23 - DEC. 29
ISSUE #578
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SEE magazine

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HO! HO! HOBOTRON!

Talkin' 'bout the Shulyer Jansen solo electro-country synthesizer blues.

+ Best In Music 2004!

Zoltan Varadi

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Santa Claus
North Pole
Visiting Bonnie Doon Mall

What are reindeer games? Is Rudolph now included?
Dodge Ball, tag, hide-and-go seek. Oh yes, Rudolph is always included.

What do you feed those elves to keep them so happy and productive?
Candy Canes and lots of sugar!

Do the elves ever get on your nerves... even just a little bit?
Oh sure, especially that one elf Porkchop; he thinks that he's too cute all the time.

Are there any misconceptions that you'd like to take this moment to clarify?
Firstly: Santa does bring his own chimney. Secondly: milk and cookies are always nice, but a bit of prime rib and baked potato is also good.

What do you do the other 364 days of the year?
I go fly fishing.

Who brings *you* a Christmas present?
Everybody! I get a lot of presents from the kids.

What is your home made out of?
Oh, lots of things: logs, igloos, gingerbread, Christmas trees and porcelain.

What is your favourite vacation destination?
Anywhere I can go fishing!

What was Mrs. Claus's reaction when she first heard the song "I saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus?" Caught with your hand in the cookie jar?
Mrs. Claus knows that Santa is for everyone.

What is the "nog" in eggnog?
Sorry—even Santa Claus doesn't know what nog is.

J PROCKTOR

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WHAT'S ON at the

SIDETRACK Cafe

THU 23 — **Shuyler Jansen's Hobotron** - CD RELEASE PARTY
Recorded for Smilin' Jay's Happy Hour - CJSR FM88
w/Chad Van Gaalen

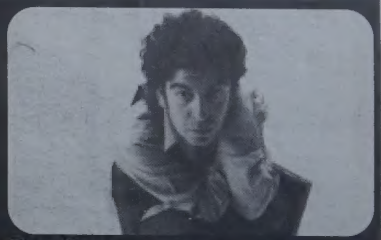
FRI 24 & SAT 25 — Closed for Holidays.

SUN 26 — **Free Beer & Pie**
w/ dj dudeman

MON 27 — *Open Stage Mondays*
Ben Spencer
w/The Best of Open Stage
starts at 9pm, no cover.

TUE 28 — Homestead Records Showcase
John Wort Hannan
The Hootin Annies
Joanna and Haley Myrol
Shawndel
Jamie Calan
& Gordie Matthews

WED 29



Ben Sures
The Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir
recorded for CBC Key of A

AROUND THE BEND...

THU 30 — **Bobby Cameron**
w/Sinclair

FRI 31 — New Years Eve
The Superband

SAT 01 — New Years Day
The Mocking Shadows

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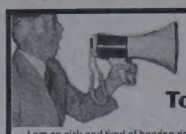

rant acid

To all Albertan bigots:

I am so sick and tired of hearing ridiculous, bigoted remarks from Albertans in regards to gay marriage. Why can't we simply *respect* our fellow Canadians who want legal recognition in their same-sex relationship? So, here's a shout out to all the bigoted religious fundamentalists: Guess what, assholes? The world doesn't revolve around your god's dogma!! There are countless Albertans out here who recognize alternative forms of spirituality! Yeah, that's right—we don't give a flying shit if *your* religion thinks gay marriage is wrong or "sinful"! It's only "sinful" in your world! *Some of us out here still believe in peace, compassion and equality, so get off your fucking ignorant soapbox and open your eyes.*

The way I view the world is if you are spreading genuine love and harming none, YOU ARE FREE TO LIVE HOWEVER YOU CHOOSE. Equality of sexual orientation (and the union of any two genders) is long overdue to be legally recognized. I could list at least a dozen hetero-married couples I have met that are hateful and abusive toward each other. If we want to get REAL judgmental here, what right do these people have in being married when they have obviously thrown out all their marriage vows? The gay couples I know, who are completely in love, are WAY more deserving of marriage than the hetero-fuckups I'm referring to. So, if marriage is about true love between two consenting adults, who the fuck are we to say that gays don't have the right to be married simply because they're gay? Instead of being the province the rest of Canada is embarrassed about, how about we—as Albertans—agree to accept ALL FORMS OF LOVE BETWEEN TWO CONSENTING ADULTS and lead our province into a healthy future with freedom for all.

Demanding Equality

Clear your throat:
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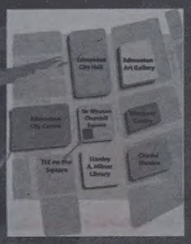


December this week...

THU 23
Winspear Centre
Christmas Bureau Carol Singalong
Noon - 1pm (FREE - accepting donations to the Christmas Bureau)

Citadel Theatre
A Christmas Carol
7:30pm

FRI 24
Sir Winston Churchill Square
Christmas Eve Carolling on the Square
4:30 - 5:30pm (FREE)
Sing along to your favourite carols with a bonfire and free hot chocolate courtesy of Sutton Place Hotel.
Citadel Theatre
A Christmas Carol (Final Show)
2pm & 7:30pm

SAT 25
Wishing you a safe and happy holiday!

FRI 31
Sir Winston Churchill Square
New Years Eve Downtown
Come down and enjoy the festivities as Edmonton rings in the New Year! As 2004 and Edmonton's centennial year winds down, Alberta's centennial will be celebrated in 2005.

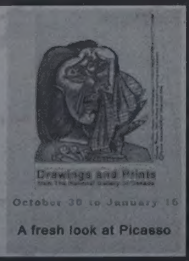
Events in January...

Winspear Centre
Salute to Vienna - Jan. 1
ESO Ukrainian Christmas with guests Shumka, John Stetch, Dnipro Choir, Ukrainian Male Chorus & Svetlana Sech - Jan. 8
RAIN: The Beatles Experience - Jan 10 - 12

Citadel Theatre
West Side Story - Starts Jan. 22

Edmonton Art Gallery
Protean Picasso (closes Jan. 16/05)
Draw (closes Feb. 6/05)
Images of Edmonton (closes Feb. 20/05)
From Near and Far
Between Borders
Spellbound

Milner Library
Lunch by the Books:
The ABC's of Symphony Strings - Jan. 13
Enjoying Non-Fiction - Jan. 16



A fresh look at Picasso

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DEBATABILL

Editor, *SEE*,

RE: Bill Benson , *SEE* Dec 16 -22.

First, just so you don't write off this letter as being the ravings of a religious fanatic, I want to assure you that I am, and have been for many years, an atheist with a certain degree of disdain for organized religions.

Having said that, I found Mr. Benson's comic strip—stringing Christmas lights around a crucified Christ—to be juvenile and incredibly disrespectful to persons of Christian faith. I am reticent to express this complaint, because I suspect Mr. Benson may respond with the cliché rationalization: "My cartoons are intended to provoke controversy and debate [insert pseudo-intellectual bullshit here]". Had any other religion (e.g., Judaism, Islam, etc.) been the subject matter of such tasteless humour, I wonder if *SEE* Magazine would have taken editorial license to refuse to publish the strip?

I enjoy black humour and appreciate though provoking social comment. However, I think Bill crossed the line here.

Regards, Kevin Doyle

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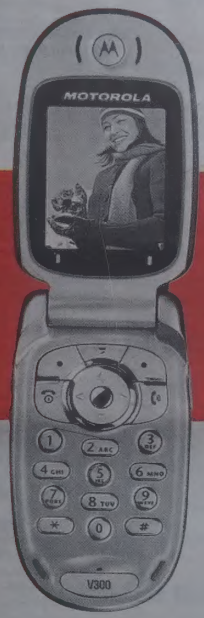

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Costco North
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12924 – 97 St.
473-2355

EAST

Capilano Mall
(outside entrance by Safeway)
450-6880

Millwoods Main Street Mall
6558 – 28 Ave. (by Tim Horton's)
440-2812

6839 – 83 St. (Argyll Rd.)
465-5271

SOUTH

6031 – 103 St.
438-2355

9128 – 51 Ave.
438-5114

South Edmonton Common
485-9812

South Edmonton Common
(inside Superstore)
701-3355

Southgate Centre
434-5620

Costco South
909-4544

9261 – 34 Ave.
[illegible]

Hub Mall
9004 – 112 St.
432-3108

WEST

West Edmonton Mall Phase I
(lower level near
Galaxy Land entrance)
445-9155

West Edmonton Mall Phase II
(by skating rink)
413-9855

West Edmonton Mall Phase III
(by London Drugs)
443-3022

10013 – 170 St.
408-8917

10608 – 170 St.
489-2255

Costco West
907-0330

LEDUC

6104 – 50 St.
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Trial by association

Human rights offenders don't often work single-handedly…

THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT HAS arrested Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who led a brutal military coup in 1973 and ruled the country with an iron hand until 1990. The United States should now follow suit by prosecuting Henry Kissinger, President Richard Nixon's former national security advisor, for breaking US and international law by helping foment the coup that brought Pinochet to power.

Before Pinochet, Chile had a well-deserved reputation as one of the most vibrant democracies in the world. It had a democratically elected president and a Congress just as we do. It had a wide range of political parties from the far right to the far left, all of which participated in the political process. It had numerous newspapers, magazines and radio stations that together represented the views of people across the political spectrum. All of its citizens, including illiterates, had a right to vote.

Pinochet, with Kissinger's help, changed all that.

The military junta Pinochet led dissolved Congress, outlawed political parties and the largest labor union in the country, censored the press, banned the movie *Fiddler on the Roof* as Marxist propaganda, publicly burned books ("on a scale seldom seen since the heyday of Hitler," according to the *New York Times*), expelled students and professors from universities, designated military officers as university rectors and arrested, tortured and killed thousands who opposed the regime.

NIGHTMARE SOCIETY

Among those who died in the coup and its aftermath were: Salvador Allende, Chile's democratically elected president; Victor Jara, its most famous folk singer; Carlos Prats, the commander in chief of the Chilean armed forces until the coup plotters forced him out of office; José Toha, a former vice president; Alberto Bachelet, an air force general who opposed the coup; and two North American friends of ours, Charles Horman and Frank Terrugi.

The Pinochet regime was condemned for torturing political prisoners and for other human rights abuses by the United Nations, the Organization of American States, Amnesty International, and many other respected international organizations. Among those tortured was a 24-year-old young man who, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, "was stripped naked and given electrical shocks... They started with wires attached to his hands and feet and finally to his testicles." *Newsweek* magazine wrote on March 31, 1975, "Each day Chileans are picked up for interrogation by the secret police. Some are held for weeks without charge, many are tortured, a few disappear altogether."

Chile, in sum, became a nightmare society. Even when Pinochet finally gave up power in 1990 to an elected government, he continued to dominate the country's politics as commander in chief of the military.

Only recently has the country demonstrated a determination to face its past head-on and bring those responsible for murder and torture under the Pinochet regime to justice, including the ex-dictator himself. Indeed, up until only a short time ago, Pinochet in Chile used to be like Kissinger in the United States. He was the Teflon man. No charges against him could be made to stick.

Three events provided Chileans with the resolve to take on the former tyrant. The first was his arrest in England in 1998 on a warrant issued by a Spanish judge charging him with human rights abuses. The second was the publication by the news media of documents indicating that he enriched himself at the expense of his own people in a variety of illicit ways. The third was a report by a government-sponsored commission detailing the torture of 45,000 people that took place under his regime.

CREDIBILITY GAP

So now, the 89-year-old ex-dictator—his former friends deserting him in droves, his cultivated image of the tough but honourable savior of his country in tatters—is under house arrest in his own country. He's trying to avoid prosecution by claiming he is too old and too feeble-minded to face a trial. What about Kissinger?

Innumerable reports beginning with a 1975 US Senate document titled, "Covert Action in Chile," have made it clear that Kissinger was responsible for directing the CIA and other intelligence agencies to destabilize the Allende government. Kissinger's motivation was to prevent what he considered a communist government from gaining a foothold in Latin America. "I don't see why we need to stand idly by and let a country go communist due to the irresponsibility of its own people," he said after Salvador Allende was elected president.

Now, Pinochet's arrest reminds us that Henry Kissinger and others in the US who are responsible for undermining democracy and condoning human rights abuses need to be held accountable for their crimes. Until that happens, the rest of the world has a right to be incredulous when our leaders proclaim they want to spread democracy and human rights abroad.

PAUL CANTOR
via Alternet

Paul Cantor is a professor of economics at Norwalk Community College in Connecticut. He lived in Chile from 1970 to 1973

Don't get your hopes up

But no wish list is too idealistic, is it...?

CHRISTMAS AND I HAVE NEVER GOT ten along very well. Think about how much cats like being lit on fire and you get the picture. It's certainly the most intrusive time of the year if you happen to *know and care* about anyone. Because even if you're cool with the whole give-and-take calipering, and you don't mind being nitpicked, grilled, and scheduled to death by family members that there's no way in hell you'd ever invite to a real party, chances are, someone you love is going to feel really bad at least a couple of times in the weeks currently circling us like hostile sea carnivores. Overworked by choice, atrociously dressed moms tend to be especially shitty when their best-laid plans slightly unravel—but God bless 'em for trying.

That being said, the sparkly highlight of the season *easily* is getting people cool shit they "need" on any number of missionary levels—the ichi ban (No. 1) place to hit the back of the net being antique malls and dumpsters, never mind what all those flaccid, advertiser-pandering gift guides have been telling you: Wow! I could buy someone an iPod? Thank Lord thunderin' Jesus I bought that issue of the daily to get that fucking *awesome* idea! OH MY GOD, wait! It says here I might also pick up a gift certificate from a Whyte Avenue spa! Shaken by the reason of Olympus, I humbly withdraw from the Pulitzer race.

Besides filling space with that creamy horse fudge, another expected tradition in journalistic circles is to make unpleasant, Judge Judy Christmas lists for celebrities, which would be really great if they read like this:

FOR ALAN JACKSON: an extra dink.

FOR MICHAEL JACKSON: some speakers and a sweater. Boots maybe.

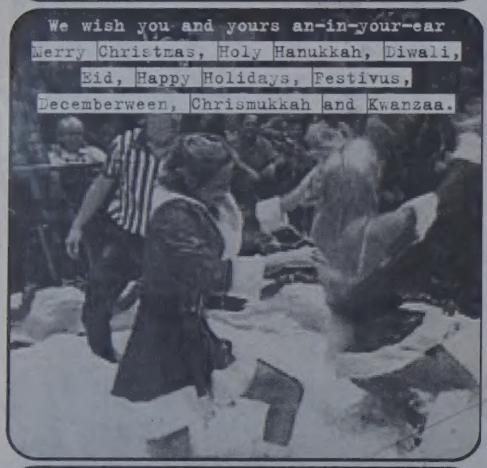
FOR ANDREW JACKSON: how about a huge hat? Or being alive?

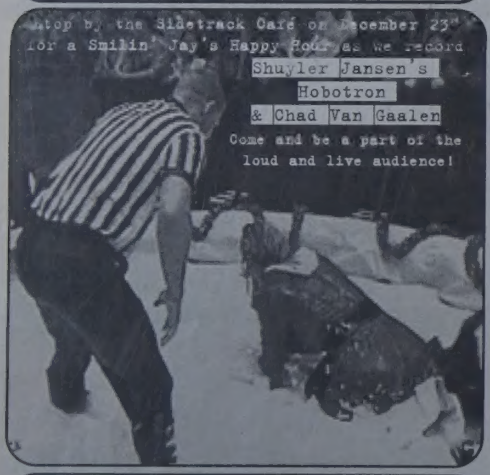
FOR GERMAINE JACKSON: who?

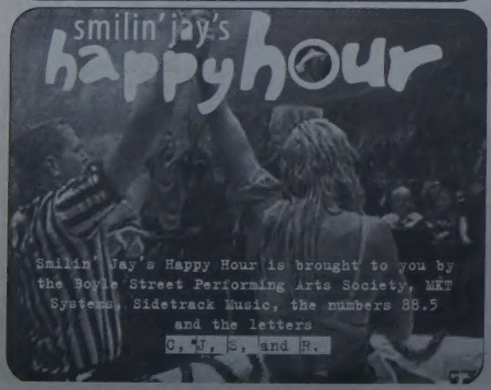
Sadly, sanity prevails, and the lists end up being dull-larious satires of public-figure misfortune. (Yeah, sorry about that, Germaine. I'm a fan, *really*.) Meanwhile, expect to read about foot deodorant for Britney from America's weakest wire writers.

Speaking of which—ba-dum-cheee—when I came to Senor Laptop this morning, I figured I'd do a spin on these and fire off some kind of political gift guide. You know, hope that Santa Claus gives the endless victims of the 9-11 shuffle in Iraq something other than napalm and body count denial—perhaps the impossible miracle of a true democracy wherein they'd be allowed to vote for candidates who aren't subject to guard dog US approval and eternal oil-milking-or-it's-Fourth-of-July-time again. I was maybe going to wish upon Paul Martin continued vigilance against these scared Americans who would build a necklace of anti-missile defenses on our land which, let's face it, are only planned to prevent retaliation: sort of an evolved, Cold War standoff where, as a bonus, the US gets to launch nukes with impunity. Or, even for all those greedhead hockey strikers, heck, I coulda crossed my fingers and hoped that by the time the wrangling's over, anyone besides suffering beer companies would give a squirt of apple juice that the weak shadow of the NHL is back on the wall. I mean, aren't you just dying to see the Atlanta Thrashers or the Columbus Blue Jackets coat the ice with their liquid magic again? *No?*

But that trip's too heavy, right? I mean, it's supposed to be a time of tolerance and love, even towards the hateful and intolerant, the unforgiving, the warriors and murderers. The thing with "supposed to", though, is that there's really no such thing. It's not even vapour. "Supposed to" implies impending, selfish disappointment of a state of affairs where things went subjectively wrong, turned dark—so really, what's the point faking out some hippy trip? Especially when the vast majority of bandwagoneers who preach this fleeting acceptance and love just once a year really only mean it towards those within their geographical and ideological borders. In the end, "Peace on Earth" is just something to be said, dust in the desert storm.







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Copping a feel

The Aviator is a grand, but not a *great* reflection of Howard Hughes

THE AVIATOR
Directed by Martin Scorcese
Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Cate Blanchett
Now playing
★★★1/2 (out of five)

YOU FEEL ROTTEN WHEN IT HAPPENS.

Someone goes to the trouble of selecting something just for you, lays out a chunk of change to get it, and then wraps it up, lovingly. You rip through the beautiful paper in mere seconds and discover that—how delightful!— your present is one of those lovely cutting-edge jobbies with backlit digital read-outs and various adjustable settings and... golly... it's really something to look at. So you push the buttons and enjoy the device's particular function a few times... and then put it in a cupboard and never look at it again.

And no matter how hard you try to get into your special gizmo—no matter how hard, in other words, you try to imagine that your metaphorical boat lends itself readily to flotation—you can't get past the feeling that your gift's flashy abracadabra far exceeds it's day-to-day utility.

That's how *The Aviator* leaves you, which makes you feel rotten because director Martin Scorsese and star/executive producer Leonardo DiCaprio have clearly done some thinking about how to tell the pre-1948 story of pilot/magnate/afflicted genius Howard Hughes (played by DiCaprio). They've equally clearly dropped a ton of cash to make this three-hour biopic airworthy.

And hot dawg but it's a lovely thing to look at, starting with the stunningly colour-coordinated '20s-era Hughes milieu, in which turquoise and copper are used in place of sepia to convey "old." Of course, you can get carried away with that sort of thing: the technique calls attention to itself from time to time, particularly when Hughes' blue-green eyes begin to glow.

But perhaps the man's irises just weren't able to contain the force of his personality. Here's a guy, after all, who inherited a fortune made from drill bits, became an uncompromising businessman, courageously and/or recklessly burned through forests of cash to make movies, fought to become a player in the burgeoning airline business, test flew his own innovative aeronautical marvels, and battled an alarmingly severe obsessive-compulsive fear of germ contamination. The affliction turned the recluse into a punchline, a cultural spectre, a man so disfigured by his lifestyle that when he died, in 1976, he had to be identified by his fingerprints.

TURBULENCE AHEAD

That's all in the dismal future, however. *The Aviator* concerns itself with the turbulent glory years. What you get for your dollar is a primer (or a refresher) on the details of Hughes' remarkable life, including his serial romantic/sexual entanglements with the likes of Jean Harlow (Gwen Stefani, in a jury-hanging cameo), Ava Gardner (Kate Beckinsdale) and Katherine Hepburn (Cate Blanchett). While he fights his accelerating bouts of odd behaviour, Hughes also wrassles a couple of late-arriving villains: Alec Baldwin is splendidly patrician as Pan Am's Juan Trippe, setting a new standard for delivery of a one-word line, and Alan Alda, as Trippe's Washington lackey, comfirms that he's far better playing a villain than he ever was playing a sap-pump on M*A*S*H.

And who better than Scorsese to convey the sense of a life lived large? Quite apart from the classy overall look of the thing, the flying sequences are truly gripping, appropriately vertiginous when aloft, believably and excruciatingly immediate when crashing.

But there's a divot on the runway, and his name is Leonardo DiCaprio. In *The Aviator* he's grafted a modified version of Jack Nicholson's vocal mannerism onto Tom Cruise's squeaky twang: when he struts around giving rapid-fire orders, the magnate he most resembles isn't Howard Hughes, it's Ted Turner. "Some of these guys are still calling me 'Junior,'" the young Hughes says to a hired hand, and the audience knows why: the 30-year-old DiCaprio still looks and sounds like a kid, even when he's playing Hughes in his 40s. It's not his fault, but it's not ours either. The problem would be merely cosmetic—and forgivable—were DiCaprio a truly great performer. Instead, his somewhat self-conscious, ill-fitting mannerisms simply underscore the self-inflicted miscasting.

Although we see Hughes' agony, we don't learn terribly much about it... although we're privy to the intimate details of his life, we're kept at a distance from the man.

CATE KNOWS KATE

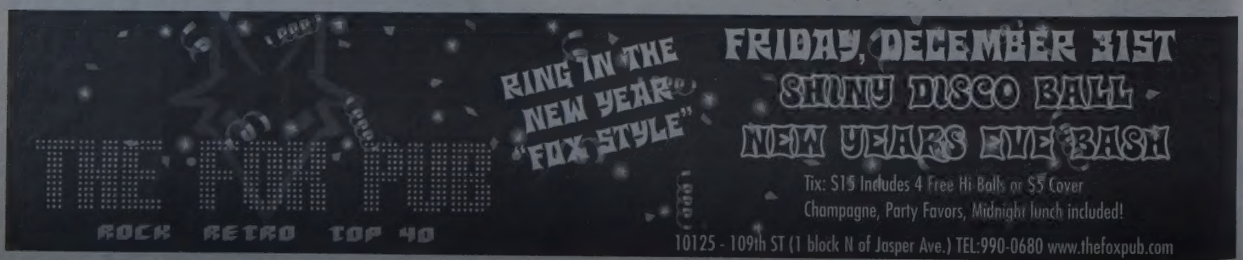
That shortcoming is thrown into sharpest relief most noticeably when he's paired with the splendidly adaptable Blanchett. Many actors (and directors) would be content with getting Hepburn's idiosyncratic speech within striking distance of Catherine O'Hara's delicious *Lion in Winter* send-up, but Blanchett makes her Hepburn a real person, complete with two flavours of sexy (hot, frosty). DiCaprio's Hughes tells Blanchett's Hepburn, "I don't think I've ever met anyone who actually uses the word 'golly,'" but when Blanchett says it, you believe it. Paradoxically, Blanchett's expert rendering of a person whose public persona lends itself to caricature only underscores the cartooniness of DiCaprio's version of the stolid Hughes. It's not that he isn't compelling in places... but he's not as big as the picture.

The script, moreover, while restoring some of the gloss to the Hughes story, leans more to spectacle than elucidation where his affliction is concerned. *The Aviator* features a mom-is-responsible moment even more compressed (and certainly more eroticized) than the one in *Citizen Kane*. That's supposed to help us understand how the maternosexual influence of Hepburn and Gardner helped Hughes go from gibbering Kleenex-dependent hermit to Senator-crushing public figure. Unfortunately, the two Howards —three, counting the super-smooth come-on svengali—never quite connect, in a way that goes beyond the understandable variations in a troubled person's temperament.

Although we see Hughes' agony, we don't learn terribly much about it than we might already have inferred, and, if the tittering provoked by some hygiene dilemmas is anything to go by, perhaps the full terror of the situation hasn't been conveyed. Although we're privy to the intimate details of his life, we're kept at a distance from the man. By the time you've reached the end of *Taxi Driver*, you may not entirely sympathize with Travis Bickle's auto-hypnotic perturbation of mind, but you certainly feel like you've been a little hypnotized yourself. When *The Aviator* ends, the packed agenda leaves you feeling like you've just seen a lengthy, high-production-values entry from the Biography Channel.

The unkind among us might look to motive as partially culpable. To performers who passably mimic people dealing with physical or mental challenges, the Academy loves to hand out Best Actor awards (Hello, Dustin Hoffman, Daniel Day-Lewis, Al Pacino, Tom Hanks, and Geoffrey Rush) and nominations (Hello, Tom Cruise, Robert De Niro, Nigel Hawthorne, Billy Bob Thornton, Russell Crowe, and Sean Penn). Despite the appeal of this heart-tugging gimmick, however, nobody seems to think it's a good idea to hire an actor who's actually living with challenging circumstances—somehow creating great performances isn't in itself considered challenge enough.

KEVIN WILSON



Jeunet does it again

Amélie director and star make magic of love on a battlefield

A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
(Un long dimanche de fiancailles)
Directed by Jean-Pierre Jeunet
Starring Audrey Tatou, Gaspard Ulliel, Jean-Pierre Becker
Now playing
★★★★1/2 (out of five)

CONSIDERING THE METICULOUS nature of director Jean-Pierre Jeunet's work, it is hard to believe he could capture the visceral terrors of trench warfare evoked in Sebastien Japrisot's novel *A Very Long Engagement*. Jeunet, who is self-taught, began his career directing commercials, which may seem antithetical to the verité style that would lend itself to the sense of immediacy required to transport audiences to the front during World War I. Ironically, it is Jeunet's impeccable attention to detail that makes *A Very Long Engagement* infinitely watchable. Each frame of the film unfolds like a chiaroscuro painting: gothic images float past that can leave the audience breathless.

Jeunet's portrait of the terror and tragedy that come as a result of war is palpable and ultimately timely. (Sadly, man's inhumanity to man always seems like a timely theme.) *A Very Long Engagement* steers Jeunet into the realm of more direct social-political commentary than his past work, but this arena is certainly no less immune to his unique powers of interpretation.

STORY WITH A PEEL

A Very Long Engagement tells the story of Mathilde (Tatou), a young woman from a small farming community in France who falls in love with her childhood sweetheart. After a tender lovemaking session, Mathilde's suitor Maneche (Ulliel) is conscripted into the army. The year is 1914 and war is not pretty: young men are shot to death while buried up to their knees in mud, soldiers graze on a steady diet of mutilation and fear. The cryptic ambience is enough to make anybody want to flee, but cowardice is not an option, as Maneche and four other comrades discover. In an effort to escape the horrors of war, Maneche shoots himself in the hand. This desperate practice of self-mutilation does not earn him a trip back home; instead, he and his four associates are jettisoned into "no man's land," a kind of purgatory that lies between the allied and enemy lines where deserters are sacrificed like lambs to the slaughter.

Though her lover is presumed dead, Mathilde feels that he is still alive. Following her incomparable spirit, she interviews and enlists a motley ensemble of characters to aid her in her quest to find him, a curious assortment of people all inextricably linked to events that transpired that fateful night at "Bingo Crepuscule"—the trench on the front lines from which Menache was expelled.

The story arc of *A Very Long Engagement* is deceptively simple, and Jeunet's particular vision does not translate well to paper. However, the manner in which Jeunet deftly unfolds events, delicately peeling off dense layers leading to Mathilde's ultimate discovery of the truth, will keep audiences on the edge of their seats.

Jeunet read Japrisot's book in 1991 and was so taken by the protagonist's obsessive search for her lover, sentenced to wander in "no man's land," that her image was indelibly branded into his unconscious.

Time passed, and following an excursion to the United States to direct an installment of *Aliens*, Jeunet returned to his home in the Monmarte suburb of Paris to direct a film based on the musings of a fictitious young woman living in his neighborhood. Cast as the lead for his film *Le Fabuleux destin d'Amelie Poulain* was wide-eyed newcomer Audrey Tatou, and in her demeanour Jeunet found the woman destined to play Mathilde.

BUILDING A TAPESTRY

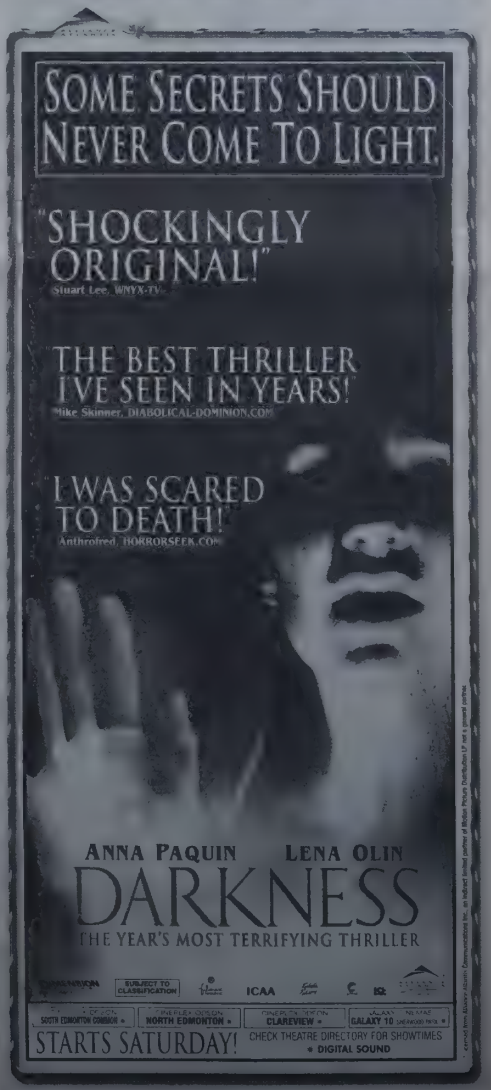
That said, Jeunet's films are a unique breed. He populates them with characters more akin to Bresson's "models" than to typical parts. Though the performances in *A Very Long Engagement* are formidable, they are so intricately woven into the art direction and narrative of the film, no single character stands out. Even Tatou's Mathilde comes off so understated at times it seems as though she is on a journey that is bigger than her character can ever understand.

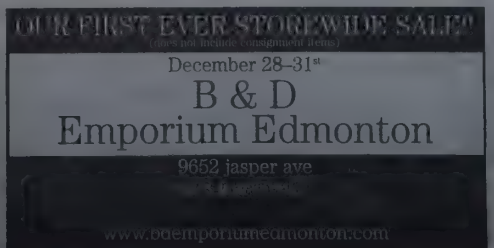
The downfall of this non-presentational style of performing is that Jeunet's actors will most likely not carry home trophies for their work, the positive side is that Jeunet never resorts to melodrama as a form of manipulation.

The real artistry in Jeunet's work lies in his understanding of how the medium of film can be used poetically to convey meaning. This is exemplified in a seduction scene where Mathilde and her lover sleep together for the first time. The heat of the moment slowly builds as they play a game of Mikado (pick-up sticks), culminating in Menache striking a series of matches, each revealing a new part of Mathilde's body. The visual splendor of moments like this, which transcend the boundaries of what most filmmakers are capable of, are the hallmarks of Jeunet's style.

In many respects, Jeunet's films are like the paintings of Hieronymus Bosch: a cast of eccentric characters develop a rich tapestry through their unique perspective on events, but also through their humanity. Beyond the concentrated narrative structure, *A Very Long Engagement* stands as Jeunet's testament to the idea that seeds of hope can be planted in ground that doesn't seem fertile.

ANTHONY KING





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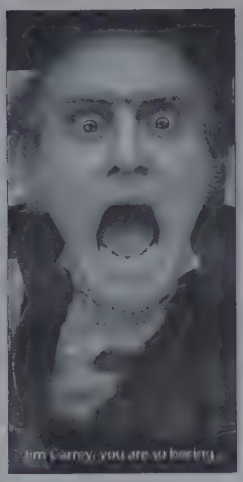

Truly *Unfortunate*

Snicket scariness undermined by Jim's jibbering

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
Directed by Brad Silberling
Starring Jim Carrey, Liam Aiken, Emily Browning
Now playing
★★1/2 (out of five)

IN THE OLD, UN-BOWDLERIZED FAIRY tales (the lovely ones with all the decapitations left in), stories were meant to terrorize their audience because, well, it's more fun. Do you really think kids want a comforting, socially redeeming ending to their stories? Some do, perhaps, but in these days of protecting our children's innocence and bolstering their ever-burgeoning (and often unwarranted) self-esteems, truly sinister fiction for young people has fallen out of fashion.

Thankfully, the Lemony Snicket books, written by Snicket (aka novelist Daniel Handler, who also moonlights as the accordion player for the Magnetic Fields), are of a kind many adults wish were being written for children today. That's why Handler has set the story in a place that bridges gloomy modern day New England with gloomy Victorian England. It's an imaginary place, akin to the worlds of Edward Gorey and Roald Dahl, thanks to Tim Burton collaborators Rick Heinrichs (production design) and Colleen Atwood (costumes).

And it all fits together with the intentionally grotesque stories of the Baudelaire orphans, Violet (Emily Browning), Klaus (Liam Aiken) and Sunny (Kara and Shelby Hoffman). Who, as a child, hasn't fantasized about being orphaned and left to fend for herself? What an adventure! So much to do! Where will I go? What will I wear?

Of course, being an actual orphan runaway wouldn't be fun at all: that's why the fantastic elements are there. This isn't *White Oleander*. The foster homes are just as bad, but children are much more clever. Violet is an inventor, Klaus an avid reader, and Sunny bites things. Together, they concoct ways to outwit the wicked "uncle," Count Olaf (Jim Carrey), who just wants their inheritance. He's quite awful, and his friends are actors. Delightfully gothic, isn't it?

So how come the movie version is only *almost* right?

Jim Carrey and babies.

Carrey's dumb mugging is annoying, and I am not scared of him. It's just the old *Mask/Ace Ventura* shtick, and I can't believe they let him do that and ruin the movie! How can you skulk mysteriously when you're goggling at the camera? I'm not saying that the role requires subtlety. Far from it: it demands over-the-top arch-evil. But not goofy. Carrey's delivery is definitely goofy, which he invariably follows with that wink to the audience, as if he's waiting for your approval. No! Evil is not attention-hungry, and it certainly does not ask you if it's doing a good job.

And the baby? Sadly, the baby is in the same category. Whereas Violet and Klaus are thin, Dickensian, creepy-attractive youths, Sunny is too cute, complete with too smart subtitling. If she were a howling, id-fuelled biting monkey baby, then yes, it would have been OK for her to be wisecracking like that. But you can't crack wise with a beaming, beauty-contestant Gerber baby smile.

Yeah. It's too bad, because the other kids are spot-on paranoid future neurotics, and the other players—Billy Connolly as snake-mad Uncle Monty (as in pythons, get it?) and Meryl Streep's dotty Aunt Josephine—are kind of fun. And the smaller roles: Catherine O'Hara! Jennifer Coolidge! Luiz Guzman! Dustin Hoffman! Like everything else, such depth! Such riches! And for what?

Once the gorgeous cut-out animation end credits roll, you realize how flat everything in the preceding couple hours really feels.

MARI SASANO

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Boombastic realism

Hero director gets carried away with *Flying Daggers*

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
Directed by Yimou Zhang
Starring Takeshi Kaneshiro, Ziyi Zhang, and Andy Lau
Opens Fri, Dec 24
★★★ (out of five)

THERE'S AN ANCIENT PROVERB THAT states, "Those who live in Houses of Flying Daggers should never buy inflatable furniture." Seriously.

That wouldn't be a problem in *House of Flying Daggers*, though, the latest period film by Yimou Zhang (*Raise the Red Lantern*, *Shanghai Triad*, and the amazing *Hero*), because the knives bob, weave, turn in mid-air, and seek out targets so tough they must have some sort of crazy laser-guided inflatable-furniture-saving knife targeting system.

It's pretty cool at first, watching the animated blades do their tricks, but at a certain point enough is enough. That's the problem with the film: Zhang doesn't know when to ease off, so he slips into self-parody. He tries too hard to wring beauty, meaning, and mind-blowing effects from a script that's a little cheesy (written by the guys who penned *Hero*).

Takeshi Kaneshiro plays Jin, an undercover policeman trying to crack the mysterious resistance fighter group House of the Flying Daggers. Acting on a tip that one of their members is posing as a dancer, he goes to The Peony Pavilion to visit Mei (Ziyi Zhang: *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*), the upscale whorehouse's newest dancer. She is, of course, beautiful, and the best dancer, and blind—a device that's a little tired in martial arts films.

After Jin sets up Mei so he can rescue her from jail and gain her confidence, they flee through the countryside with the police force in pursuit. When not repelling the attacks with secret non-lethal force, which gets pretty silly, or romancing his charge, with the sloppiest kisses ever, Jin sneaks away to meet up with his superior, Leo (staple of the Chinese film industry Andy Lau). Jin questions his mission as he gets closer to Flying Daggers headquarters, and uncovers all sorts o' plot twists of varying degrees of success.

Really, this is a showpiece movie. Several times the plot pauses to allow Zhang's team to showcase their graceful choreography, ornate costumes, tight composition, and intricate special effects. Like Zhang's other films, *Daggers* is elegantly directed and awash in vibrant colour. Unlike much of his previous work, though, his ambition hurts his pacing. For example: there's a scene called "The Echo Game" where a bunch of beans are thrown against some drums and Mei must mimic the sound by hitting the instruments with the long, billowing sleeves of her coat.

Initially, it's really cool, unfolding like a call-and-response ballet, but then thousands of beans are tossed at the drums, and Mei uses her superhuman abilities to remember the exact sequence, nailing the instruments for what seems like forever. It's ridiculous. Similarly, the much talked about bamboo battle tries hard to one-up *Crouching Tiger* with a gravity-defying fight scene, and it does, but then it keeps going and going.

The worst offender, however, is the climactic battle, where an entire season worth of snow falls in, like, ten minutes. Sure, it's fantastic realism, but you gotta laugh. Zhang also channels the tears and heroic sacrifice of a thousand soap operas into his ending. You know that scene in Austin Powers where Will Ferrell's character just won't die, no matter what Dr. Evil does to him? It's kinda like that, but dead serious. The soaring score and histrionic performances don't help tone it down, either.

In spite of all this goofiness, there's still enough art in the film to enjoy it on a purely visual level. Zhang is an incredibly talented and multi-faceted filmmaker, and, well, it's not unusual for great artists to get a little wrapped up in their own devices from time to time.

DAVE ALEXANDER

Fly me to the dune...

Crash landing in the desert no escape from "Hey Ya!"

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
Directed by John Moore
Starring Dennis Quaid, Giovanni Ribisi, Miranda Otto, and Tyrese
Now playing
★★1/2 (out of five)

FOR A FILM WITH SO MUCH GRIT, *Flight of the Phoenix* certainly lacks grit. Y'see, sand it's got—enough to pound up a trillion asses, in fact There are giant sand dunes as far as the eye can see, sand is the catalyst that causes the plane to crash, and sand's the enemy capable of blowing so hard it can literally grind your skin off. It's one helluva force of nature to go up against in a survival story, so by default this movie should be a lot grittier.

John Moore (*Behind Enemy Lines*) delivers a contemporary remake of the 1965 Jimmy Stewart movie, and tells essentially the same story but tries to up the ante with modern special effects instead of modern special effects combined with more sophisticated storytelling. Like most contemporary action-adventure movies, there's this assumption that technology magically makes everything better across the board. Not so.

Special effects do, however, make for a riveting first act, as long as no one's talking. Dennis Quaid, taking over for Stewart, is pilot Frank Towns, a smart-mouthed, hotshot, flyboy cliché-in-aviator-glasses assigned to fly an oilfield crew out of the desert. Playing a less charming version of the smirky Harrison Ford archetype, he rattles off the annoying one-liners to his asshole-ish co-pilot A.J. (Tyrese, overdoing it). Unlike in the original film, this roughneck crew includes a female (Miranda "Eowyn" Otto), because you're not allowed to make a movie these days without some sort of love interest, regardless of how unnecessary that character is. A bookish stranger (entertainingly off-putting Giovanni Ribisi), who's not on the passenger list, also tags along. His secret skills are needed later, so his presence isn't questioned too much.

Oh right, the special effects. Frank flies the plane into a Scorpion King-sized sandstorm, which sends the twin-engine off course and trashes it, forcing a spectacular landing in the Gobi desert. Moore does a nice job with the brutal crash sequence, but never surpasses it.

So, with no radio and a restricted food and water supply, it's—whammo!—*Survivor: Middle of F#%king Nowhere*. As the desert dishes its worst sandstorms, heat, and nomad smugglers, and the shrinking crew realizes they probably won't be found—at least not by non-murderous nomads—the stranger deduces that hope lies in building a smaller plane from the wreckage. It's a far-out but attractive premise: a beleaguered group fights off the elements and attackers while struggling to build an experimental plane before supplies run out.

The downside is they're all very stupid, stupid people. For starters, on what seems like a daily basis, someone somehow wanders off unnoticed by a group huddled together in the middle of the desert. Oh, and after a few days waiting to be rescued they decide to try to build the plane and realize they'll conserve more energy if they work at night. Solid logic. So they power giant lights with a portable generator, and make torches with all the excess fuel they've got, in order to see Somehow "signal beacon" is never mentioned. Then again, these are also "skilled" labourers who don't realize grinding metal near a barrel of gasoline has consequences. Let Darwin sort 'em out

You could overlook the weaknesses in the script by Edward Burns and Scott Frank (adapting the original by Lukas Heller) and enjoy the struggle if not for stuff like a totally out-of-place *Matrix*-style shooting and a montage where one survivor drives golf balls and others dance merrily to "Hey Ya!" Sure they're dying by the second, but there's always time to party like it's mid-2003!

The sands of time shall be the harshest judge of all

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Occupation: Toy manufacturer and distributor
Where: Kingsway Garden Mall
Hair: It's natural
Wearing: My entire ensemble is designed and constructed by Mrs. Claus. Due to my ever-changing size, my better half is always busy with alterations. My shoes and belt were crafted by local Pole elves; they do great work. They make me a new set every year. These glasses are one of many pair that I have acquired through my travels. My eyes are quite adaptable.
Personal style: Jolly in red
Inspiration: *The Jetsons*
Fashion faux pas: Crumbs in the beard
Fashion secret: A girdle will let you turn a 42 into a 36.
How important is fashion to you? 1-10? 9: I have to stay 'in' with kids so they actually like the clothes I have made for them at the Pole.
How much time do you spend getting ready? 365 days.
Movies: *Napoleon Dynamite*: That kid is always on the top of my "nice" list.
Music: Soft rock, Billy Joel, have you heard "Caribbean Queen?"
Reading: Christmas lists, oh the lists!
Matchie-matchie? Ho ho ho, how else would I be recognized?
Favourite reindeer: Blitzen... I mean all of them equally. I hope this doesn't affect our flight...
Milk and cookies? Soymilk and sugar free cookies. Santa still has all of his teeth.
Strangest gift asked for: I can't answer that. You know... it's for the children.
What would you want if it were free tomorrow? A bigger buckle.

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Fockers amuses with poo and pet jokes

MEET THE FOCKERS
Starring Ben Stiller, Robert De Niro, Dustin Hoffman and Barbara Streisand
Directed by Jay Roach
Now playing

GAYLORD IS BACK AND IT LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE for the circle of trust. *Meet the Fockers* follows the same basic structure as its predecessor, *Meet the Parents*, with a series of humiliating situations that escalate beyond reason and belief.

With his wedding fast approaching, Greg (Gaylord) Focker (Ben Stiller) and his fiancée Pam (Teri Polo) must finally introduce their parents to each other. Greg and Pam hop in an RV with Pam's parents (Jack (Robert De Niro) and Dana (Blythe Danner) Byrnes), the Byrnes's precocious grandson, and Jinx the cat, all of them headed to Florida for a weekend on "Focker Isle."

Jack is still a complete psycho, Greg is still a complete Gaylord, and Pam and Dana are still, well, kind of boring. Comedy ensues when Greg's hippy-dippy folks enter the mix and Greg must balance Jack's secret-agent mentality with his own parents' free-lovin' vibe.

Stiller is a pretty amusing guy. He spends most of this movie looking deeply uncomfortable, and it's just so funny. Watching Stiller and De Niro bounce off each other is as entertaining as it was the first time around. Dustin Hoffman and Barbara Streisand are well cast as Greg's parents. Hoffman has fun as Bernie, Greg's affectionate, free-spirited dad, who has created a shrine to his only son. The Wall of Gaylord!, and Streisand, returning to the big screen for the first time in nearly 10 years, is surprisingly convincing as Roz, a sex therapist with a penchant for fertility statues and overly personal questions.

The physical comedy is toned down a bit this time to make room for ensemble scenes. The cast has expanded to include an infant, and a dog—and while I'm not a fan of cute babies or kooky animals in comic movies, I'll refrain from bitching on the grounds that *Meet the Fockers* does with these elements exactly what *Meet the Parents* did: it snatches laughs from the jaws of unfunny. The script, after all, is really nothing special—it's too heavy on the "Focker" jokes and gets cloying at the end—but the comic direction and the acting in both films is superb. The jokes and gags are so well-timed and executed that it's easy to forget this is little more than a cobbled-together combination of Big-Fat family sitcoms, poo-poo humour, and pet antics.

The script, after all, is really nothing special... but the comic direction and the acting in both films is superb.

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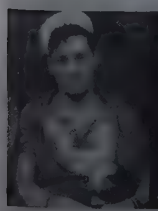

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★★★ (out of five)

UNMASKED The Phantom only reveals a cursory peek at anything resembling real characters

ONE NEEDS TO LEARN ONLY THREE tunes to sing along with Andrew Lloyd Webber's 1986 opus *The Phantom of the Opera*. They are: "The Music of the Night," "Angel of Music" and "All I Ask of You." Fortunately, the viewer gets to hear them in their entirety during the first 45 minutes of the movie, then they're pounded over and over again in the composer's ham-fisted attempt at *leitmotif*. Oddly, this repetition isn't quite as noticeable watching a stage production of the musical, but it's glaringly in-your-face when watching that white mask blown up to the size of a two-storey walk-up.

Nearly 20 years ago, *Phantom of the Opera* was the mega-musical to end all mega-musicals: "Phantomania" ruled Broadway and the West End. The musical propelled Michael Crawford into a career of Vegas musicals and recordings for the blue-rinse set while launching Sarah Brightman into her career as a schlock-diva. Andrew Lloyd Webber was the Svengali who held the musical theatre stage in thrall. However, beneath the detritus of tie-in marketing and that famously trashed chandelier, something was missing. Simply put: depth. While the Phantom, his protégée Christine, and her dashing suitor Raoul, Vicomete de Chagny warbled prettily and seductively, the actual work lacked anything further than a cursory peek at the people behind the archetypes.

What was obviously missing onstage has not been satisfactorily addressed in Joel Schumacher's production of *Phantom*, coming soon to a megaplex near you. Blown up to fit a 40-foot screen, this spectre is a deep abyss of shallowness—deeper than the Phantom's dungeon lair. With a few exceptions, the movie essentially lifts the musical out of the Broadway theatre and transposes it onto celluloid. Schumacher and Lloyd Webber's adaptation seems to go no further than taking some of the most banal lyrics and forcing the characters to speak rather than sing them. "Twisted every way, what answer can I give/Am I to risk my life to win the chance to live?/Do I betray the man who once inspired my voice/do I become his prey/do I have any choice..." sounds a lot less hokey when set to music. What's delivered on-screen is essentially a series of very expensive music videos intercut with connecting action sequences.

Don't even get me started on the subject of the interpretive dance inserted in some of the key opera scenes, and the less said about some of the continuity, the shaky-cam action and nausea-inducing revolving shots, the better.

A few intriguing scenes place the entire action in the memory of an aged Raoul, hearkening back to the halcyon days of youth and disaster a la *Titanic*—hell, Schumacher even uses the same "close up of an eye as a time travel device" as James Cameron... and, actually, a lot of this production reeks of that mega-movie. Despite the nods toward a convincing back-story, it all makes for curiously unaffecting drama; one wants to shake Christine for even trusting such an obvious psychopath, however gorgeous (melted face aside).

Mind you, eighteen year-old Emmy Rossum (born the same year *Phantom* premiered) is virginal lushness personified as Christine. She possesses the wide-eyed innocence to carry off some of the character's more dim-witted moments convincingly. A classically trained singer, she does betray some "young soprano" tendencies but traces a convincing developmental arc with her changes in singing style over the two hour plus run time of the film. Patrick Wilson is suitably square-jawed and handsomely all-American as Raoul, that most Gallic hero—lovely voice too—and Gerard Butler is an unexpectedly sexy Phantom. He's got an odd voice, but once the ears warm up to it, it's strangely appealing.

The true charm of this movie (yes, there is quite a bit) lies in the peripheral characters—Simon Callow and Ciaran Hinds as the Opera managers; an exuberantly over-the-top Minnie Driver steals the film as La Carlotta, the Opera Populaire's resident monster of a Diva. The costuming is superb, the stages and settings beautiful. The opening scene of a set and props auction where the relighting and hoisting of the chandelier in the burned out opera house blows the dust and ash away, transporting the viewer back 50 years will leave one gasping in delight as will the backstage battles and bitcheries. There is much fun to be had at the movie.

For fans of the music, who haven't been able to get to a London, New York or the nearest touring show, the film does afford an opportunity to see what all the fuss is about, maintaining as it does the overall look of the stage production; for already initiated fans it's pretty thrilling to hear that distinctive overture on THX; and for Andrew Lloyd Webber fans, it's a great chance to revisit the last decent score he composed. Over all it's a bit silly and half-baked, but clean, sumptuous, schlocky fun for the whole family.

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FILM CAPS

Alexander (14A) If you're up to watching a pretentious yet mediocre historical drama by Oliver Stone, be prepared to be bored out of your tree for *three whole hours*. Alexander is a near-myth of a man—anointed by the gods! Loved by men! Riding, conquering! Anthony Hopkins is only too happy to over-narrate for you this badly-structured mess of a story, and unfortunately, what we get is Colin Farrell: laddish, petty, silly Colin Farrell. ★1/2 (MS)

The Aviator (PG) Reviewed in this week's issue

Blade: Trinity (18A) *Blade: Trinity* vomits unfathomably bad dialogue, laughable product placement, and ill-conceived characters spiraling helplessly through a non-plot consisting of random, over-styled occurrences and poorly edited special effects. If you like a lot of vampires turning into computer-animated burning skeletons, then you're... still not in for a treat. *Blade: Trinity* is so haphazard it's as if it were created by a bunch of caffeine-jacked adolescents sitting around a campfire taking turns telling a part of the tale. ★ (DA)

Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason (14A) This second installment of the chick lit classic is not as good as the first, mostly because the whole schtick is now a little old, and most people don't find Bridget (Renée Zellweger) quite as interesting now that she has landed a proper boyfriend in Mark Darcy (Colin Firth). The writers are far too busy making Bridget look like a bumbling loser than they are at explaining that her self-sabotaging behaviour actually comes from somewhere. Cliche upon cliché—Jones, you could be so *much more*. ★★1/2 MS

Christmas with the Kranks (PG) After their daughter Blair (Julie Gonzalo) leaves for Peru, Luther Krank (Tim Allen) suggests they use the Christmas money to instead spend 10 days on a Caribbean cruise. But two days before Christmas Blair calls to say she's coming home after all! The Kranks begin a desperate attempt to pull it all together for their daughter... Scenes (and gags) are rushed; characters, though potentially interesting, lacked a certain spark; and the plot turns transparent. ★ (CL)

Closer (18A) Best described as a confluence of beautiful people with absolutely nothing to say, the most redeeming thing about *Closer* is the title song by Damien Rice. Based on a play by Partick Marber that has won numerous awards, and featuring a stellar cast, one would think the ingredients are in place to create a terrific film. The problem with is that by the time the final credits role we have no idea who these people are, and furthermore we don't really care. ★★ (AK)

Finding Neverland (G) Marc Forster follows up his much acclaimed *Monster's Ball* with a film based on events leading up to the publication of *J.M. Barrie's* most famous work, *Peter Pan*. All of the ingredients in *Finding Neverland* are meticulously woven together; unfortunately, the fallout of such formulaic storytelling is that the film is a little too slick. But as it is, *Finding Neverland* borders only on being a melodrama of manners. ★★★ (AK)

Flight of the Phoenix (PG) Reviewed in this week's issue

The Grudge (14A) Takashi Shimizu's remakes his own low budget haunted house movie *Ju-On*, but the lead character is now American. Sarah Michelle Gellar plays a careworker in Japan. When other workers begin to go missing, she covers for them in an average suburban haunted house. Unfortunately this Grudge is concerned with loud, sudden noises and spooks rather than slow-moving tension. ★★★ (DA)

House of Flying Daggers (14A) Reviewed in this week's issue

The Incredibles (G) Forced into superhero retirement by a lawsuit but bored with office work, Bob Parr secretly fights crime incognito. Watched by a mysterious figure, the former Mr. Incredible is offered secret high-paying assignments, which bring him to a mysterious high-tech island complex, and... There's a lot more to the plot, but half of the fun is experiencing Brad Bird's ambitious, fast-paced story unfold. It's crammed with imagination and cutting-edge animation, *The Incredibles* really succeeds, though, because it doesn't rely on the shallow pop-culture jokes that make movies like *Shrek* and *Shark Tale* so irritating. ★★★★1/2 (DA)

Kinsey (rate) Director Bill Condon continues probing a subject whose life is riddled with contradictions and ambiguity. Under the microscope this time is Alfred Kinsey, a scientist who laboured in obscurity until he transferred his obsessive passion for the gall wasp to the sexual proclivities of humans. Condon's script works because it delicately balances Kinsey's revolutionary scientific discoveries with the odyssey of self-discovery Kinsey goes through, including his escalating frustration in trying to narrow "love" down to a set of objective criteria. *Kinsey* is proof that attempting to free society from constraints comes with a price audiences should be willing to pay. ★★★★ (AK)

Ladder 49 (PG) A painful burn in store for the hapless viewer, who must endure five-alarm firefighter movie clichés, flute music possibly left over from *Titanic*, and bad lines. A grossly contrived collection of soap opera clichés that is the plot concerns firefighter Jack Morrison (Joaquin Phoenix) and his comrades of Ladder 49 fire hall. Trite, simple, manipulative and condescending. In other words, an average Hollywood flic, but with more things burning. ★★ (DB)

Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unexpected Adventures (PG) Reviewed in this week's issue

The Machinist (18A) *The Machinist* churns out some genuinely frightening moments. The problem here is that there is simply far too much unnecessary dialogue. The many good qualities make it worth checking out, though. Christian Bale transforms himself suitably to look the part of a man who is vexed by his own demons: his anorexic physicality, accented by his anxiety fueled intensity, suits the mood of the film perfectly. The elegant camera work by Xavi Gimenez and the bleached out colour are beautiful, and used to great effect, especially when punctuated with Roque Banos' score. ★★★ (AK)

Meet the Fockers (14A) Reviewed in this week's issue

Napoleon Dynamite (G) In this high-school misfit movie, mocking the nerds just makes you look like an ass, because here cool is a meritocracy. Skinny, geeky Napoleon Dynamite (Jon Heder) wields a hidden power that only reveals itself at the end of an hour and a half of deadpan meandering delivered by a brilliant cast of actors who act like non-actors. Short on plot but rich in atmosphere, the film is no freakshow: the so-called popular kids are losers too—they're just don't know it. ★★★★★ (MS)

National Treasure (PG) Nicholas Cage stars as Ben Gates, a historian obsessed with a long-held family belief that the world's biggest treasure was brought to America by the Knights Templar and hidden by the Masons/founding fathers. The arbitrary script has all the standard cliché characters, there are lots of chases, sudden by-jove-I've-got-it-type epiphanies, scary caverns, 200-year-old torches that spring to life... But as Bruckheimer-fleshy as it is, it's also unexpectedly mundane, thanks to long scenes of boring exposition, a strict adherence to formula, and merely functional direction by Jon Turteltaub. ★1/2 (DA)

The Notebook (PG) Director Nick Cassavetes has crafted one of those rare, perfect, swoony love stories. Noah (Ryan Gosling) and Allison (Rachel McAdams) are in love, but he's a millworker and she's money so... It's like a fairytale, this story of lovers separated by time and class and circumstance: insurmountable obstacles arrive and yet are overcome, which is why this film is so satisfying. ★★★★★ (MS)

Ocean's Twelve (PG) Director Stephen Soderbergh, who also helmed the prequel, gathers the original gang of thieves—last seen ripping off Vegas—for a European job. The real thrust of the story, however, is Rusty's (Brad Pitt) relationship with ex-girlfriend Isabel (Catherine Zeta-Jones), who's conveniently the top cop assigned to nail the gang. As with *Ocean's Eleven*, which coasts on hip-cat martini parties and dated but endearing innuendo, it's fun to spend a couple of hours hanging out with the boys, as they plot, bicker, and charm their way around obstacles. ★★★1/2 (DA)

The Polar Express (G) A young boy has a restless Christmas Eve ventures outside, only to discover a massive steam locomotive parked on the front street: The Polar Express. The stage is set for all to learn something by agreeing to go on a journey. But aiming to use "cutting-edge filmmaking" to tell a classic Christmas tale is a pretty lofty goal, and the biggest downfall here is giving the technology a higher priority than the story. ★★1/2 AK

Phantom of the Opera (PG) Reviewed in this week's issue

Ray (PG) The late, great Ray Charles: musical innovator, grinning old gent in a white suit, Diet Pepsi pitchman, Muppet collaborator... and emotionally crippled crank-addict fuck-machine. Director Taylor Hackford both humanizes Charles and proves why he should be put on a pedestal, following Charles from boyhood poverty to the peak of his career and through the valley of his personal life in the late '60s. Jamie Foxx's dead-on portrayal makes you wanna walk out of the theatre and into a record store stocked with the musician's back catalogue. ★★★★ (DA)

Saw (R) Two strangers wake up in a dingy bathroom, each shackled to a pipe. They struggle to remember the events that lead up to their imprisonment before finding clues on how to escape. While the imagery and twists may be disturbing and compelling, the premise, dialogue, and performances are weak. ★★1/2 (DA)

Shark Tale (G) This ocean underworld is so unimaginative that its fishy inhabitants merely mimic the dismal world above; thinly veiling itself as a funtime kids' movie this is really a giant commercial. The fish even *look* remarkably like the big-name Hollywood actors voicing them, which sucks, 'cause it's just boring stars play fish versions of themselves. The laughs are seldom and the story is weak. ★★ (JW)

Sideways (18A) Aging playboy Jack (Thomas Haden Church) and depressive divorcé Miles (Paul Giamatti) take to California's wine country to celebrate Jack's upcoming marriage to a beautiful rich girl. It's a typical midlife crisis/odd couple/road trip movie, and with Alexader Payne in charge (you remember *Election* and *About Schmidt*?) it turns out pretty funny, with an edge of observational cruelty, and a little tragic. *Sideways* is a nice mental vacation from the mediocre, the sense of despair. Be patient with your life, but when it's time, open the wine. ★★★★ (MS)

Spanglish (PG) This is a nice, grown-up story that takes on some over-the-top characters and complicates them enough to make them seem like a family. It means well, combining the languages of the quiet observer character, Flor (Paz Vega) and her Anglo family of misfits. But the Mexican is never played for cheap laughs: instead, she's the entryway into the family of nutty Americans, who *are* played for laughs, but are given hearts, too. Where we might expect the characters to get cartoony, director James L. Brooks (*As Good As It Gets, The Simpsons*) knows when to quit. And it's still funny! ★★★1/2 (MS)

The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie (G) However it appears to the casual viewer, *The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie* is not just a flick for kids. Unlike either of the *Shrek* films, which feature adult characters trying to portray adult dilemmas to children, the SpongeBob movie feature's child characters struggling with children's dilemmas, while SpongeBob and sidekick Patrick deliver the adult world of sex, booze, and rock and roll as seen through the eyes of a child. The result is a fun, funny and fantastic film that not only appeals to all audiences but also will entertain today's youthful viewer in a different light in years to come. ★★★★ (CL)

Team America: World Police (18A) Using the silliness of the puppet medium, Trey Parker and Matt Stone's film follows a group of American freedom fighters around the globe as they pursue terrorists and WMDs, all while trying to stay out of the grasp of ungrateful left-wing Hollywood actors. Setting aside the relatively obvious political satire one expects from Parker and Stone, there are enough puppetry gags and jabs at blockbuster movie clichés to keep things amusing. ★★★1/2 (DA)

Vera Drake (14A) Mike Leigh's authentic and affecting story, set in 1950 England, is anchored by Imelda Staunton's tremendous performance as the unassuming can-do wife, mother, cleaning woman and DIY abortionist. It's not exactly balanced, but it is artfully multifaceted and thought-provoking. A triumph by the most humane of directors. ★★★★★ (KW)

A Very Long Engagement (18A) Reviewed in this week's issue

What the Bleep Do We Know (14A) Meant to show the limitless possibilities of human potential and how the body and mind work together, this documentary investigation goes too far down the rabbit hole in trying to explain the spiritual ramifications of quantum physics. Although sometimes intriguing, the film's computer animation, dramatization, and multiple talking heads sometimes murkify the already complicated and abstract ideas at play. ★★★ (SL)

Reviewers: Dave Alexander, Anthony King, Scott Lingley, Mari Sasano, Juliann Wilding, Kevin Wilson

Classifications:
(NA) Not available at press time
(G) Suitable for viewing by all ages.
(PG) Parental guidance advised
(14A) & (18A) Persons under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.
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★★★★½

"Staggeringly Beautiful... with thrilling martial arts sequences that can make the hair on the back of your neck bristle and vibrate with anticipation"
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From the director of HERO and the star of CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON

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Shuyler Jansen's Hobotronica

Latest Old Reliable side project brings a digital backdrop to folk-country

ZOLTAN VARADI

SHULYER JANSEN CD RELEASE
W/ Chad Van Gaalen
Thu, Dec 23
Sidetrack Café (10333-112 St.)
Info: 421-1326

SYNTH IS A DEADLY WEAPON IN THE hands of the wrong musician. Think of Europe's "The Final Countdown," Frankie Goes to Hollywood's "Relax," or Loverboy's "Working for the Weekend" and it's easy to see the rancid potential of technology. It's no surprise that a lot of old electronic gear gets dumped at second-hand stores or garage sales, where ironic hipsters dig it up and reconfigure it for their New-New Wave or electro-clash bands.

Shuyler Jansen has a much different idea, however. The co-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist for local alt-country heroes Old Reliable is a huge fan of electronic experimentation, and has been collecting various bits of dated effects gear over the years, digging it up at Value Villages or at garage sales. Now, taking a cue from roots-rock boundary pushers like Jay Farrar (Uncle Tupelo, Son Volt), Jeff Tweedy (Uncle Tupelo, Wilco) and Howe Gelb (Giant Sand), he's applied electronic experimentation to traditional folk-country for his first solo album, *Hobotron*.

"The name sort of came as a joke," he admits, "We had this on-going hobo thing because a lot of musicians I know are basically just hobos. In the end, even though the name came out of joking around, it rings true for the record—it's your country or folk song mixed with what's going on right now in music: people playing on computers. Lots of people think that it's terrible and it's this totally unemotional, inhuman quality of music, but it's the opposite. It's more deep and possibly more meaningful."

Jansen wanted to find that depth by bringing together the organic songwriting of his heroes like Bob Dylan, Van Morrison and Townes Van Zandt with the spacey soundscapes of bands like Yo La Tango.

He worked on the album at home in the evenings after his day job, laying out the atmospheric framework for the disc, which he describes as "the pre-nuptial phase." This meant making instrumental versions of some songs he'd already written, and then running them through different pedals hooked up to various noise gadgets from his collection.

Jansen says, "I saw this wicked David Lynch documentary where he'd record the orchestra through these different types of tubes and pylons and springs, so when he's doing the soundtrack to his movie he's easing in the cello through a big spring tube. Especially since everyone's mixing in a surround format these days, and pretty soon—25 years from now—everyone will have that type of surround system in their houses. That's the future of recording: mixing albums in the shape of the earth or as a globe, not in the two-dimensional way we're doing it now."

'That's the future of recording: mixing albums in the shape of the earth or as a globe, not in the two-dimensional way we're doing it now.' SHULYER JANSEN

To further, ahem, round out the sound, Jansen enlisted the help of local musicians he'd previously recorded with or wanted the opportunity to record with for the first time. Among those appearing on the album are: fellow Old Reliable member and front man of his own Old Reliable side-project, The Swiftys, Shawn Jonasson, singer Melissa Majeau, Whitey Houston drummer Gravy, Nettwerk recording artist Oh Susanna, and Lane Arndt, who's known locally for his sonic experimentation and soundboard work. Arndt also accompanied Jansen on a 40-date tour to promote Hobotron. (Jansen notes that audiences were generally "confused" at first by the sound, but quickly embraced it). Tonight's (Thursday's) show at the Sidetrack Café will feature Arndt, Gravy, Tanyss Nixi collaborator Travis Short, Jen Kraatz (whose albums Jansen played on), as well as a laptop, multiple guitars and a slew of pedals.

"We're trying to make it all sound larger, or like an orchestra," says Jansen, detailing his expectation for the gig.

He's one of those obsessive players always chasing bigger sounds, exploring new noise, and trying to capture sonic moments. And you'll never hear him say that he's found what he's looking for, that he's satisfied with the result of his efforts, or that he even really owns it.

"As far as my work, I'd probably give it a one out of ten in the end because it's gotta be so much better," he says with determination and unwarranted self-deprecation. "That's what it comes down to—trying anything new, to not be satisfied with one record because that record we're talking about has a mood, has its own thing. But it's irrelevant to the 20 other moods I wanna make. That's what's cool and that's the problem of dwelling on another project. After putting in those 18-75 days people put into records, they shouldn't be allowed to hear them anymore… It breeds ego when people listen to their [own] music too much."

This ego problem applies to synth in particular. Most of the electronic abuses in the '80s, for example, are marked by a lack of restraint when headband-wearing cheesemeisters would hammer out upbeat, in-your-face riffs minus soul. Really, what other musical environment could've produced something as ridiculous as "the synth-tar?"

Jansen shakes his head at those days: "Everybody used synth in the wrong way back then. Obviously it worked for Devo and some other groups, but [overall, bands] would pad everything with synth and get sounds that they actually thought sounded like an electric guitar and stuff. Instead, what you should do with electronics is get out-of-this-world sounds—like a dinosaur crawling across the earth."

DAVE ALEXANDER

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The best in music in 2004

Agree to disagree, our writers did –an exhaustive, eclectic compendium of *SEE* scribe faves for the year gone by

DAVE ALEXANDER

Best albums of 2004
(in no particular order)

THE GO TEAM *Thunder, Lightning, Strike*
Talk about reckless; these spazzlords mix old-school funk and hip-hop samples (Marley Marl), banjo balladeering, garage band drumbeats, hyperactive girly-pop vocals, even cheerleader whistle. The result is highly original, wild, and jacked with joy. If you fed a hyper-hypo a bag of sugar, this is what you'd play while he danced himself unconscious.

THE ARCADE FIRE *Funeral*
Sick of hearing about these guys yet? Well, believe the hype, because the Montreal (where else?) band seduces and conquers with its full-length debut. Dedicated to nine recently deceased loved-ones, *Funeral* is a silver lining of melody, desperation, passion, and experimentation. Those traits may remind you of the first time you heard Neutral Milk Hotel's *In an Aeroplane Over the Sea* and thought "brilliant." More elegant and consistent than that band, however, this is the indie "it" band earned their crown.

STARS *Set Yourself on Fire*
Montreal goodness abounds with Stars' follow-up to *Heart*. Rich, sincere, eloquent, romantic, accomplished, bittersweet, epic, orchestral, the goddamn thing's an adjective magnet for critics. It's an album that wants to fall in and out of love on the first date, just to get in touch with its emotions. Feeeeelings, something more than feeeelings.

SOCIAL DISTORTION *Sex, Love and Rock 'n' Roll*
Hell, it's just good to know Mike Ness is still kickin'. After an eight-year hiatus, line-up changes, and tragedy, mommy's little monsters return and, surprise, still play the baddest outlaw punk you'd ever wanna drown your sorrows to. Neither their themes nor the sound have changed, and sometimes that's just what you need. Classic—like jukeboxes, "mom" tattoos, and Brylcreem.

DANGER MOUSE *The Grey Album*
The project that mixed the Beatles' *The White Album* with Jay-Z's *The Black Album*, not only had copyright lawyers spontaneously combusting, it also proved that some musical boundaries are made to be broken, and others are made to be vapourized with pure DJ genius. John Lennon would've loved it. Hear the revolution and download it for free at bannedmusic.org.

MODEST MOUSE *Good News for People Who Like Bad News*
This year, one of the big questions for indie rock fans that tend to obsess over such questions was: "Will Modest Mouse be ruined finally by a major label?" The good (or possibly bad) news, for those people who tend to like bad news if it means whining about liking a band before anyone else, is that the Mousekateers found mainstream success without selling out. The warped 'n' catchy indie rawk is a bit cleaner, which allows the band to integrate both its poetry and experimental noise in new, satisfying ways.

LORETTA LYNN *Van Lear Rose*
Recording heartfelt country with a feminist slant decades before the likes of Neko Case, 70-year-old Loretta Lynn found an unlikely producer in Jack White who introduced her to a couple generations of new fans. He took the songs on *Van Lear Rose*, stripped 'em down and polished 'em until they came out sounding both fresh and classic.

TV ON THE RADIO *Desperate Youth, Bloodthirsty Babes*
It's as if this Brooklyn group challenged itself to sound like a different band on every track without sucking, and succeeded. On various songs—or sometimes within the same song—they go barbershop quartet, Peter Gabriel, art-/post-/indie- rock, jazz, and various points in between. Offering meditations on race and violence, the lyrics resonate as much as the atmospheric instrumentation. And it's easy to hum along to. Beat that.

IRON & WINE *Our Endless Numbered Days*
Samuel Beam, AKA Iron & Wine, writes the type of intelligent lo-fi alt-folk that built Hayden's career. More gentle and '70s-sounding than his Canuck counterpart, Beam mines forlorn nostalgia for all it's worth and hits pay dirt.

DEATH FROM ABOVE 1979 *You're a Woman, I'm a Machine*
If you like rock at it's most primordial, this album sells itself in the first ten seconds. The opening of "Turn it Out" is like this giant, crusty robot rising out of a swamp to make "Seven Nation Army" pee its pants. The blistering attack is courtesy of two Montreal guys who mount a thunderous garage racket from only a bass and drum kit. It's death from above, below, front back, left and right.

PROSPER PRODANIUK

Ten for 2004 (in no particular order)

MAGNETIC FIELDS *i*
Still haven't found your everlasting love? Neither has Stephin Merritt, so why not enjoy the holidays together? Production and instrumentation is absolutely beautiful/phenomenal as he puts major label money to extremely good use.

WELLS/SCHNEIDER/WHITEHEAD/MORGENSTERN *Pick Up Sticks*
Truly original, experimental yet accessible exercises in dub, jazz, and ambient music featuring literally every instrument on earth. Live instrumentation and electronics rarely come together so well. It was my chillout disc for months.

ALTER EGO *Transphormer*
Inspired by AC/DC and tired of George W. Bush, Alter Ego took techno and electro and simply ROCKED OUT for all it was worth. Yeah, it's TNT! It's dynamite.

BROOKS *Red Tape*
You won't listen to it every day, as it's more art than pure entertainment. Electro, Detroit Techno, Jazz, World Music, Synth-Pop and Blues are all respectfully and wonderously shared on this ambitious and accomplished disc.

DJ/RUPTURE *Special Gunpowder*
Jace Clayton gives reggae, dub and African music new life—be it as subtly or as loudly as possible. Great co-productions with Kit Clayton, Ghislain Poirier and Max Turner; stunning vocals from Soul Jazz "Dynamite" series favorite Sister Nancy on the clashing soundsystems standout "Little More Oil."

MOUSE ON MARS *Radical Connectors*
Jan St. Werner and Andi Toma go pop. Well, as much as they can. Guest vocalists toast or sing on top of ludicrously funky beats with an insane amount of experimentation.

THE UKRAINIANS *Istoryia* (Best Of)
Out of the ashes of early '90s acid-folk group the Wedding Present came this punk-Ukrainian-folk fusion. Ludicrously difficult to find their stuff until now, this "Best Of" contains gems like their ethereal version of "Venus In Furs," as well as Smiths and Sex Pistols covers and a fantastic version of the instrumental hit "Telstar."

JOHN ADAMS/NYPO/MAAZEL *On The Transmigration of Souls*
Although this is Adams' heartfelt reaction to the events of 9/11, he respectfully de-politicizes this amazingly beautiful and moving piece by making it for anyone who's lost a loved one suddenly, anywhere.

SPEKTRUM ENTER *The Spektrum*
Favourite of the "electro punk-disco" albums that came out this year. A tight, original group, and Lola Olafisoye's elastic vocals sound like Billie Holliday one second and Nina Hagen the next.

JOHN CALE *New York In The 1960s*
Five LPs of pure, unrefined early minimalism that foretold the future of electronic, punk, and rock music. "Big Apple Express" is hilarious: a New York firefighter flips out on Cale for "music that just goes on and on and on."

ZOLTAN VARADI

1. **LORETTA LYNN** *Van Lear Rose*
Jack White does for Lynn what Rick Rubin did for Johnny Cash—bodyguard the production from Nashville schlock, allowing this cultural treasure to dazzle naturally. Lynn's song are among the most poignant, enchanting, and haunting recordings by anyone, ever.

2. **DETROIT COBRAS** *Seven Easy Pieces* EP
The best practicing r'n'r band out there rips all too quickly through seven vintage rump shakers, leaving you as any good album should: desperately hungry for more. (Their new full-length, *Baby*, is set for a mid-January release date.)

3. **NICK CAVE AND THE BAD SEEDS** *Abattoir Blues/Lyre of Orpheus*
Two beautiful discs that make up for time lost on crushing bores like *Nocturama*.

4. **DJ/RUPTURE** *Special Gunpowder*
Perfect for those with short attention spans: A Last Poets' style stream-of-consciousness/street-apocalypse throw down gives way to Sister "Bam Bam" Nancy assisted dancehall that morphs into electro-dub. Somehow there's still room for a couple of elegiac pop songs.

5. ***THE THIRD UNHEARD: CONNECTICUT HIP HOP 1979-83*** Various Artists

This might as well be a collection of new artists, because, as the title implies who the hell knew Connecticut was a hotbed of early rap action? Newly released material over two decades old that's still fresher than Fiddy 'cuz the boasts are 100 per cent bling & bitch free

6. **SOLEDAD BROS** *Voice of Treason*
An old blues DJ once told me that he thought the majority of blues-punk bands sounded like extremely inept versions of The Rolling Stones—he meant it as a compliment, oddly enough. These guys fit that bill.

7. **SHUYLER JANSEN** *Hobotron* / **bebop cortez** *the romantic panther commander*
Just two local releases that further prove, thanks to egalitarian advances thrift store recording technology know-how, that the quality difference between million dollar major label projects and affordable indies is a completely moot point. The talent here speaks loud and clear

8. **THE STRANGLERS** *Norfolk Coast*
Did we really need a muscled-up remake of "Peaches"? No more than the first time 'round, I suppose—but it's still delish.

9. **THE CLASH** *London Calling 25th Anniversary Edition*
This album has been in my personal most-listened-to chart for two decades without pause. Might as well include the reissue.

10. **WILEY** *Treddin' On Thin Ice*
If only for the track wherein' this loopy Dizzee Rascal sound-a-like manically rhymes about stealin' pies—not as a crude sexual metaphor, but the baked goods.

TOM MURRAY

THE CLASH *London Calling 25th Anniversary Edition*
It's in my all-time top ten, so this was a no brainer. Plus, the extra DVD footage of producer Guy Stevens tearing up the studio is priceless.

THE WOLFNOTE *This is the Getdown*
Yelping, incomprehensible keyboard driven punk played just the way I love it.

IVANA SANTILLI *Corduroy Boogie*
Yummy Philly soul plus disco, electro, funk, and even some bossa nova thrown in for good measure.

DANGER MOUSE *The Grey Album*
Jay Z's *Black Album* and the Beatles' *White Album* all smooshed together the way God intended. See if you can find it.

BRIAN WILSON *SMILE*
Gorgeous.

WHITEY HOUSTON *I Got Fucked By Liberty Mutual 7"*
Best live band in Edmonton, and a song guaranteed to get you in trouble if you play it on the air.

ROB SONIC *Telicattessan*
Indescribably strange stuttering beatnik hip-hop.

JUDAS PRIEST *Electric Eye*.
It's a cheaply packaged DVD collection of original videos and BBC performances but whatever; how did I ever live without "Living After Midnight" in my life?

PINK MOUNTAINTOPS *Self-Titled*
The return of Krautrock, by way of Vancouver

DOERS *I Can Enjoy Almost Anything/Ready, Set... Do*
It was quite the coup to have Mike Watt fill in on bass for *I Can Enjoy...* but my favorite is actually the second part *Ready, Set... Do*; the songs are better, and the Minutemen-isms are toned down dramatically

LECH LINKIEL

CURVE *The Way of Curve*
A compilation of clues as to where Garbage, Republica, et al found their sound, and why they will never be as good as the real thing

THE DIVINE COMEDY *Absent Friends*
Proves that a serious pretender to the throne of pop music refinement need not settle for a mere band when the London Philharmonic will do just as well

EINSTURZENDE NEUBAUTEN *Perpetuum mobile*
Among archetypical industrial albums, this one excels in creative uses of a used car tire, an air compressor, and a turntable powered wind instrument

FRONT 242 *Geography* (Alfa Matrix)
Reissue an essential classic from the foremost dance floor assault unit, interestingly repackaged, remastered, and expanded

PORTION CONTROL *Well Come*
Working with original recipes and updated utensils, Portion Control serve up a refreshingly modern slice of electro punk.

SKINNY PUPPY *The Greater Wrong of the Right*
Regardless of how one feels about the Right, the return of Canada's most influential postmodern performance art band cannot be easily dismissed.

LAIBACH *Anthems*
An excellent introduction to the most influential Slovenian postmodern performance art band, complete with remixes that leave even Lacanisians lacking an excuse not to dance.

LEVINHURST *Perfect Life*
Who among those excited by the sheer mention of Kraftwerk won't find an album introduced with a cheery "Eins, Zwei, Drei, Vier!" irresistible? Oh, and Lol used to be in The Cure.

INFUSION *Six Feet Above Yesterday*
Expanding the classic compositional approach of the genre with a varied array of acoustic instruments, this is the synth pop album of the year.

DER PLAN Der *Verschwörung*
With the right plan (der Plan) everyone can be part of the conspiracy (der Verschwörung). Now go practice the secret electro punk handshake... punk.

JAMES LAMBERT

1. **THE OPERATORS *780*** *The Operators *780**
If this is the last creative gasp from these hometown punk-reggae foot-soldiers, at least it will be their swan song. This ten-pack of catchy, rough punk, skanky reggae, and atmospheric dub was the most endearing record of the summer and a laudable achievement for the local music scene.

See Best of, page 22

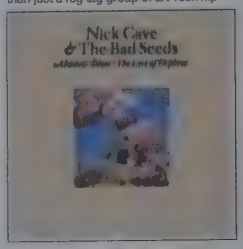
Best of

Continued from page 21

2. **SINGLE FRAME** *Wetheads Come Running*
Technically this is a reissue; *Wetheads Come Running's* mid-air collision of indie rock, modern electronica, and catchy art-punk stands as one of the most memorable releases of this new decade.
3. **THE FIERY FURNACES** *Blueberry Boat*
Big and sprawling, *Blueberry Boat* is overrun with interwoven melodies and songs-within-songs-within-songs that unfold and bump against each other like pieces in a musical pop-up book. Mr Bungle would be proud
4. **BEASTIE BOYS** *To The Five Boroughs*
"Kicking lyrics right through your brain! When you hear the sign you'll be right as rain!" No bells, no whistles, just intense tomfoolery. Solid Beasties; 'nuff said
5. **THE ARCADE FIRE** *Funeral*
If the buzz is reaching near-Franz Ferdinand levels of intensity, at least it's being given to this group of band geeks from Montreal. Sure, it's jangly orchestral indie pop, and that may sound like the usual pretension on paper, but the arrangements here are simple enough to yield some of the catchiest tunes of the year
6 **BRIAN WILSON** *SMiLE*
There's no getting around the fact that his voice isn't quite what it used to be, but by the time this miraculous album finishes with "Good Vibrations," it's as if not a day has passed since 1967. The sweet psychedelic symphony that is *SMiLE* feels as contemporary as ever
7 **MORRISSEY** *You Are The Quarry*
This is a fine collection of some of the Moz's richest post-Smiths songs for a new generation of awkward teens. Points deducted, though, for the almost ridiculous amount of alternate versions and expanded editions of this release. (I guess this wallet-miner really *is* the quarry.)
8 **LES SAVY FAV** *Inches*
By far one of the best bands of the so-called dance-punk explosion, the Fav combine angular art-rock and caterwauling dance-punk into something that's at times cerebral but always engaging, accessible, and damn fun. *Inches*, a compendium of eight years worth of singles (planned in advance) is their most defining work
9 **GREEN DAY** *American Idiot*
Tiresome (by this point) political hand wringing and that godawful lead single aside, the bulk of *American Idiot* is a stellar punk opera that's embellished beyond pop-punk expectations with five-part songs and a grandiose production that captures the most interesting sounds every produced by this quasi-punk trio Where do they go from here?
10. **(Tie) Tiger Army**: *III: Rise of the Ghost Tigers* / **Sparta** *Porcelain*
Two remarkably solid albums on the periphery of punk. Tiger Army did exactly what I've been craving for them to do: tone down the noise and emphasize their superb mastery of melodic songcraft; Sparta continues to impress with their guilt-free playbook of emotional post-punk.
Best album from 2003 that I didn't listen to until 2004: **The Exploding Hearts** *Guitar Romantic*. This is one of the best punk albums of the last five years. Plunging headfirst back into 25 years of musical history, The Exploding Hearts mined the power-pop of the Ramones and the Buzzcocks in tales of relationship angst immediately reminiscent of a Mick Jones-fronted version of the Clash. In an age of regurgitated screamo and vapid mall-punk, the tragedy of the untimely deaths of three of the band's four members is made all the more painful.

ANNA KESSLER

BEST RECORD: Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds' *Abattoir Blues/The Lyre of Orpheus*
Another masterpiece by a masterful band: the record blends all of Cave's trademark lyrical and poetic brilliance with a rock/gospel feel and all the sound and fury one's heart could desire.
BEST NEW BAND: Stellastarr*
Although they are a little ridiculous at times, there is genuine talent here and some real originality. The perfect cure for a Franz Ferdinand hangover.
BEST SOPHOMORE RELEASE: Interpol's *Antics*
I admit not as impressive as their debut, but these guys just flat-out rock. I challenge you to find a better alternative single than "Slow Hands".
BEST CANADIAN BAND: The Stills
With their debut, *Logic Will Break Your Heart*, The Stills prove that they are more than just a rag tag group of art-rock hip-



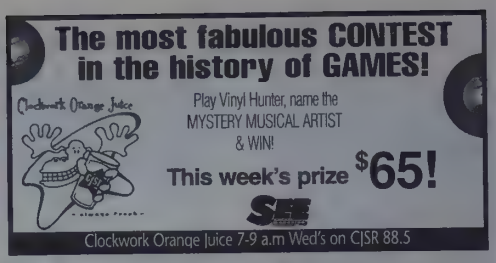
pies from Montreal. This album demonstrates insight and maturity and promises great things
BEST SINGLES COLLECTION HIM's *And Love Said No*
This has all the favourite "hits" (I use the term loosely of course) from Finland's best love-metal band... "Join me in death", "Buried alive by Love", "When Love and Death embrace" and a pretty rockin' cover of Neil Diamond's "Solitary Man". If you don't love to laugh at this, there's something wrong with you.
BEST RE-RELEASE: Re-mastered deluxe edition of The Cure's *Three Imaginary Boys*
This is a double disc re-release of The Cure's debut album from 1979, second disc of B-sides and rarities. Something to look forward to: Rhino is planning to re-release remixed and re-mastered versions of all the early Cure albums.
BEST NEW TREND: The effort to dethrone The Strokes as the kings of post-punk has resulted in excellent efforts by bands like Interpol, Modest Mouse, Hot Hot Heat, The Stills, Stellastarr*, and the like. These bands have not yet achieved excellence but... wait for it, because they just might.
BIGGEST MISTAKE: The Cure getting the dude who produces Korn to produce their latest release. This is both inexplicable and deeply unfortunate and I think is largely responsible for why their latest self-titled release is not quite up to par.
MOST WORRISOME TREND: Bands jamming in their parents' basement thinking that the only difference between them and the White Stripes is that they have not yet been discovered... Shudder.
TO LOOK FORWARD TO: New releases from the Wedding Present, The Stills, Stellastarr*, double B-sides CD from Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds. Evanescence will surely run out of awful crap to put out pretty soon. The Cure tend to put out a really good album after they put out a not-so-good one; the re-emergence of the acoustic guitar and the end of electronica...

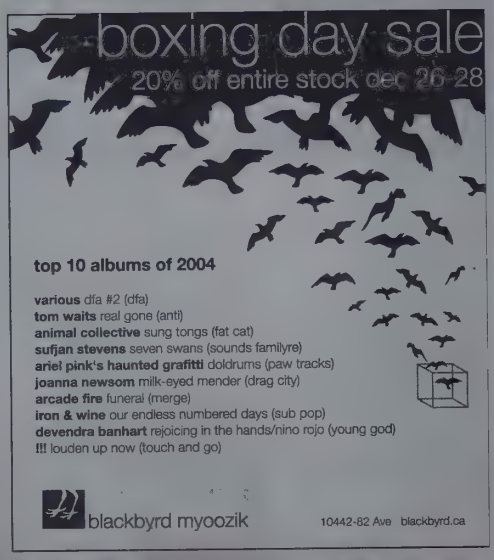
JASON KELLER

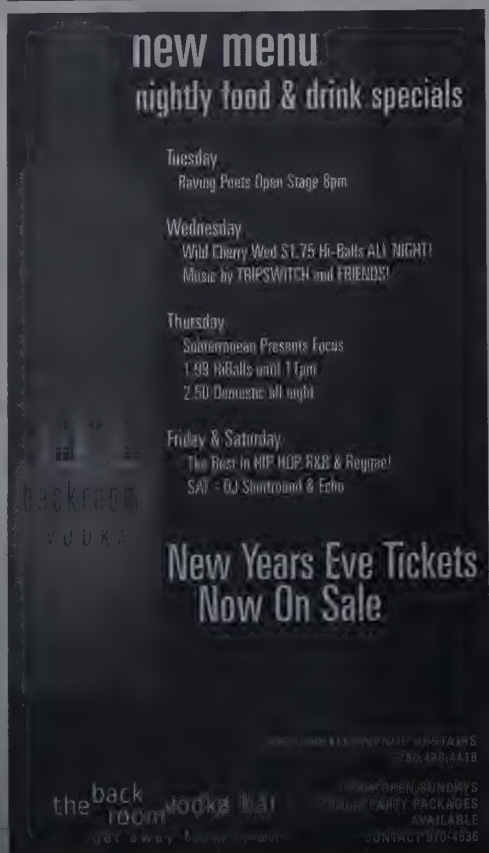
1. **CHROMEO** *She's in Control*
When you first hear Chromeo you either get it, or you don't. Admittedly, I didn't get it, and it took awhile before this album opened some doors for me. Let's just say that door was made of electro

vocoder-funk that led me into a room where the ghost of Rick James is doing lines with Prince; they're watching *Caligula* for 30th time, and they won't let me leave.
2. **HOT SNAKES** *Audit in Progress*
Any band that puts pirates and soccer-balls in their cover art is onto some next level shit the rest of us will never truly understand. What we do know is that John Reis might just be the best fucking rock guitarist in showbiz. Bonus: they sing about being in debt, which touches me on a deeply emotional level.
3. **MISERY SIGNALS** *Of Malice and the Magnum Heart*
A brutally emotional, teched-out, hammer-down of hardcore and metal. This Milwaukee group, which is about 40 per cent E-town players, have crafted a resonant collection of powerfully poignant songs like "The Year Summer Ended in June," that'll have you punching the floor and sobbing into your black "Everytime I Die" T-shirt.
4. **FRANZ FERDINAND** Self-titled
Yes, everyone likes them. Yes, even your grandma is wearing a white belt, and your 12-year-old little sister is calling them played out. Still, it doesn't change the fact that every single track on this debut wreaks dance havoc wherever it goes. Just listen to the 180-degree turn from nouveau-rock to disco on "Take Me Out," and you'll understand how these art-school poseurs got so big so fast.
5. **BLONDE REDHED** *Misery Is a Butterfly*
What is up with Kazu Makino's voice? It's like you're being serenaded by a drugged-out geisha while two weirdo twins (Amadeo and Simone) play in the background. Intimate, psychedelic and lustrous, Makino gushes with so much sensuality on songs like "Elephant Woman" that it makes you a little hot under the collar.
6. **THE STREETS** *A Grand Don't Come For Free*
Mike Skinner ingeniously weaves together an 11-song narrative about losing your money, girlfriend, and inevitably your mind—with a twist ending. The best part is that Skinner tells his story as if you were sitting next to him on a bar stool wearing an Adidas zip-up, ordering luke-warm Shaftsbury.
7. **IRON AND WINE** *Our Endless Numbered Days*
How this big-bearded, log cabin dwelling, Juniper bush singing mountain man made his way into the lexicon of indie-rock snobs is a mystery to me. Well thank you to who ever unearthed Sam Beam's strangely affecting backwoods banjo folk. The only problem is, when you listen to this record, you feel compelled to chop some wood and build a fire on your apartment's living room floor.
8. **AIR** *Talkie Walkie*
A cosmic collision of cold technological sterility and passionate lunar love that makes for a enjoyably strange encounter.
9. **WILCO** *A Ghost is Born*
When the hell did I become a Wilco guy? I guess it's half-beards, Tweedy blazers and a sullen disposition from here on out. I don't care; this album is sincerely touching without being over-bearingly sentimental. Besides, a good measure of an album is its ability to throw you into an identity crisis.

See Best of, page 24







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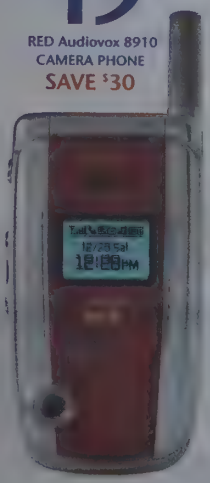

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Best of

Continued from page 22

10. **DESCENDENTS** *Cool to be You*
My beloved Descendents singing about politics and raising children? What the... if there wasn't a song on here about eating bad Mexican food and striking out with girls, one might worry that the band was losing their "integrity." Although, they could sing about water treatment plants and it would still be the best fucking punk rock on the block.

BRETT LAMBERT

1 **BEASTIE BOYS** *To The 5 Boroughs*
After six long years of waiting for the B-Boys' follow-up to *Hello Nasty*, it's finally here. The Beasties bring it back to old-school hip-hop while they give shout-outs to 9/11-stricken New York and diss Dubya. Nice!

2. **WILLIAM SHATNER** *Has Been*
Yeah, you're probably thinking: "Shatner? What are you on?" Believe it or not, it's *that* good. When you've got Ben Folds, Joe Jackson, Henry Rollins plus Shatner thrown in the mix, the result is far too fun to dismiss.

3. **SPARTA** *Porcelain*
U2's best album—that is, if U2 were fronted by a bunch of emo kids.

4. **THE STREETS** *A Grand Don't Come For Free*
Whether he's desperately trying to return a DVD or wondering whether a lass playing with her hair means she fancies him, The Streets' Mike Skinner is droppin' science in full Brit mode. Oi!

5. **THE BETA BAND** *From Heroes To Zeroes*
Sadly, these guys broke up mere months after the release of *Heroes To Zeroes*. We'll miss you, The Beta Band; nobody else can mix post-grunge balladry, funk, hip-hop, and acid house quite like you did.

6 **MORRISSEY** *You Are The Quarry*
The pope of mope is back on the map with his first solo album in seven years. He's in a fighting mood, too, taking on American self-absorption, the British monarchy, and even Jesus Christ. Best part: Morrissey whoops *all* their asses!

7. **INTERPOL** *Antics*
Contrary to the hype, they don't really sound like Joy Division, so the lazy comparisons shall stop from here on in. The impeccably mopey (and impeccably dressed) New Yorkers have instead crafted one flawless album.

8. **KATY ROSE** *Because I Can*
Avril Lavigne, Ashlee Simpson... they're angry teenage girls? Gimme a break! For genuine, intelligent teen angst, Katy Rose is your girl! Closer to Liz Phair than her peers, she's got a maturity well beyond her 17 years.

9. **JIMMY EAT WORLD** *Futures*
"I always believed in futures/ I hope for better in November" sings Jim Adkins Ok, so John Kerry didn't win, but at least we can all nurse our broken hearts with some quality sensitive emo-boy fare from Jimmy Eat World.

10. **BRIAN WILSON** *SMiLE*
Better (very) late than never. Former Beach Boy Wilson finally unearths the missing '60s masterpiece and perfects it for the 21st century.

10.5. **Plainsay** *Cartography*
It's time for local music fans to tune their ears to Plainsay, who are creating some stirringly beautiful rock 'n' roll in a similar vein to Jeff Buckley. Definitely worth the time to seek out!

CAM HAYDEN

Time, once again, to delve into the memory banks and come up with some of the best in blues, jazz and roots music; look at trends that show signs of enduring and generally take stock of what happened in 2004 for the fans. It's impossible to come up with a complete list without leaving some deserving act or venue out of the mix, so if I've missed your favourite, my apologies. Here are a few of the things that struck this particular observer of the scene.

Live music enjoyed incredible success all around. More full houses than ever before were reported at outdoor events, in concert halls, big and small, folk venues, and the assorted pubs, clubs, and bars that keep things humming year 'round. Highlights, in no particular order included:

THE FAT POSSUM JUKE JOINT CARAVAN at New City. Incredible, authentic, hypnotic, North Mississippi hill country music presented to a crowd that ranged from 18 to 78.

ELLIS HOOKS at the Sidetrack Café. Channeling the spirit of Otis Redding, Hooks electrified the sparse crowd. His first time through but definitely not his last. Also at the Track, Chubby Carrier.

BUDDY GUY TRIO at the Winspear. Stripped down, folksy, and incredible. Larry Taylor and Stephen Hodges, possibly the best rhythm section in blues today, provided impeccable backing.

At the 25th anniversary edition of the **EDMONTON FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL** there was an embarrassment of riches including, but not limited to: Michael Franti and Spearhead, Jerry Douglass, Bonnie Bramlett, Wanda Jackson, Earl Scruggs, Rodney Crowell, Natalie Merchant, and Nathan. Best belly laugh of the weekend courtesy of David Lindley's "Man Boobs," a song played on oud to the melody of Slim Harpo's "Hip Shake."

At Edmonton's **LABATT BLUES FESTIVAL** (here's my disclaimer, I'm one of the producers): The audience, who hung in through 8 degrees and rain all weekend. Also: Roomful of Blues, Angela Strehli, Lil' Ed and the Blues Imperials, Sista Monica, and Jimmie Vaughan. The performers were just as impressed with the audience as I was.

Twentieth birthday of the **YARDBIRD SUITE**. Built on the sweat of volunteers who love the music, the Yardbird is a unique listening space that deserves at least 20 more.

A dozen discs released this year that should be in the collection of every blues/roots music fan:
SUE FOLEY *Change*
DUKE ROBILLARD *Blue Mood*
NICK CURRAN AND THE NIGHTLIFES *Player*
DOWNCHILD *Come On In*
PINETOP PERKINS *Ladies Man*
ANSON FUNDERBURGH AND THE ROCKETS *Which Way is Texas*
SAM MYERS *Coming From the Old School*
ETTA JAMES *Blues to the Bone*
JANIVA MAGNESS *Bury Him at the Crossroads*
Any/all of the **MUDDY WATERS** re-issues from this year
MANNISH BOYS *That Represent Man*
ROD PIAZZA AND THE MIGHTY FLYERS *Keepin' It Real*

Best continuing trend was the cooperation between the various folk clubs, the folk festival, and small soft-seaters that book roots music. Being careful not to step on each other's toes has led to the continued growth of the scene.

And for blues fans, The Blues on Whyte is back. New management and a new booking philosophy has seen more different regional and international acts on the stage.

There were also more new places to enjoy your favourite music. While a few rooms closed, many more opened including Blue Chicago and The Back Stage, while The Newcastle Pub, Grinder, and others, started booking music more often.

See Best of, page 26

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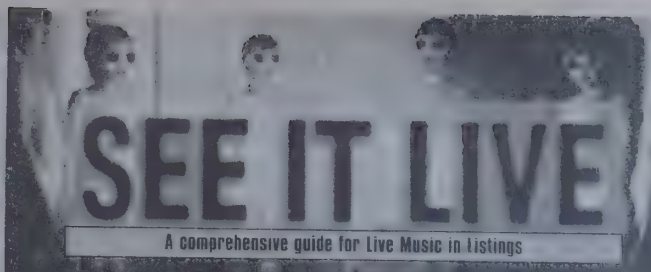

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Fri 31st
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w/The Blame-its
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THU 30TH
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W/TOXIN & SECTION EIGHT
FRI 31ST
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Fri. 31st
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Jamie Calan
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Best of

Continued from page 24

In all, a great year to be a roots music fan in E-town. Remember to support live music for more of the same in '05. In the meantime, have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

LIV STREET

Top Ten Albums of 2004

1. **FRANZ FERDINAND** Self-titled
Shamelessly fun rock tunes that inspire us all to air-guitar about our homes and aspire to marry Scottish people.
2. **MODEST MOUSE** *Good News For People That Love Bad News*
This quirky collection, when played at a party, can make the geekiest of hosts seem cool. That's 'cause it *is* cool.
3 **PINBACK** *Summer In Abaddon*
More like "Summer in Awesomeness."
4. **THE OPERATORS *780*** The *Operators *780**
The collectively crush-worthy Operators' first full-length release is an Edmonton punky-reggae original.
5. **K-OS** *Joyful Rebellion*
Toronto hip-hop king K-OS gives us an album which is... joyous and rebellious
6. **ARCADE FIRE** *Funeral*
This Montreal indie rock band will light a fire in your stereo.
7. **PJ HARVEY** *Uh-Huh Her*
A raw and textured album from everybody's favorite Polly Jean.
8 **SASHA** *Involver*
If you can listen to this album without dancing, you are dead inside.
9 **THE KILLERS** *Hot Fuss*
One of the best things to happen to rock in a while. *Hot Fuss* is stimulating and electric—a blend of rock's past and rock future.
10. **JEFF BUCKLEY** *Grace Legacy Edition*
Okay, so maybe this 1994 classic isn't *technically* a 2004 release, but this posthumous edition, with DVD and live track extras, nonetheless wins the much-coveted spot of ultimate love in my heart.

FRITZ FRANÇOIS

10 Random musical moments of 2004

C'MON.
Not only did they release THE rock 'n' roll album of the year, *Midnight Is The Answer*, but their TWO live shows at New City each bordered on a religious experience, with Ian Blurton acting as rock music's newfound Messiah. Wowzers.

FAVA CINEMATIC SOUNDS:
A wonderful experimental evening with four bands providing a live soundtrack for local FAVA filmmakers. The Faunts' atmospheric custom-made soundscape was something to behold, while the James T. Kirks' instro-surf-rock kickstarted the evening with a post-modern bang.

CHROMEO.
You better believe this Montreal-based duo was the party flavour of the year. Edmonton scenesters went batshit insane for their balls-out electro-funk vocoder romp at the Starlite Room (dedicated to the late Rick James).

WHITEY HOUSTON:
Whitey and Gravy practically blew the roof wide open at Clearview Meadows Hall in Red Deer (with the Vertical Struts providing extra damage to everyone's eardrums—demented, I tells ya!). The loudest, dirtiest, pants-shakin' Whitey performance of all time.

BULLFROG @ Jazz City:
It doesn't get much better than this: a full house at the Sidetrack for Montreal funksters Bullfrog with Robertson pounding the bass pedals and Kid Koala scratching the hell out of his grooves sans-headphones! Whew.

RAISING THE FAWN *The North Sea*
Hands down, the most beautiful album of the year. Five stars that will not fade any time soon...

PART CHIMP *Chart Pimp*
A battering ram of a record. It's all the noise you need when things are a little too quiet. Guitars, drums, and feedback galore!

TWIN FANGS *Quelque Chose*
Don't even try to dodge the one-two punches of this local duo's sonic attack. Live performances to remember included the Artshab Scary Ball with No Hands, Champion Alberta, and Whitey Houston. From the fires of hell!

BRIAN WILSON *SMiLE*
Some will say it came 35 years after it was due. I'll say "better late than never!" for this flawless pop masterpiece by one of the most inventive (and tormented) musical minds of our time.

bebop cortez *the romantic panther commander*
THE eclectic collage album of the year. Grrrrrrrrowl

JAMES STEWART

10 Best records of 2004 (in order):
ISIS *Panopticon*
MADVILLAIN *Madvillainy*
CONVERGE *You Fail Me*
NEUROSIS *Eye of Every Storm*
DIZZEE RASCAL *Showtime*
WOLF EYES *Burned Mind*
LEATHERFACE *Dog Disco*
BJORK *Medulla*
MASTADON Leviathan
SONIC YOUTH *Sonic Nurse*

Five Honourable Mentions (no order):
DESCENDENTS *Cool to Be You*
DILLINGER ESCAPE PLAN *Miss Machine*
EL-P *Collecting the Kid/ High Water*
MISSION OF BURMA *Onoffon*
TV ON THE RADIO *Desperate Youth, Blood Thirsty Babes*

Five Reissues/ Collections (no order):
ACEYALONE *All Balls Don't Bounce* Reissue
CAN *Tago Mago* & *Ege Bamyasi* Reissues
DILLINGER *Cocaine In My Brain: Anthology*
BRIAN ENO Here Come the Warm Jets & Taking Tiger Mountain (By Strategy) Reissues
NOMEANSNO *People's Choice* (Best of)

10 Memorable Shows (no order):
Chad van Gaalen — Listen
Chris Miller — New City
No Hands — New City
Ministry — Red's
Pixies — Red's
bebop cortez — Seedy's
Eshod Ibn Wyza — Seedy's
Constantines — Sidetrack
Nomeansno — Sidetrack
Fractal Pattern/Amadan — Stanley A. Milner

SCOTT LINGLEY

Top 10 albums of 2004

1. **LORETTA LYNN** *Van Lear Rose* (Interscope)
The coal miner's daughter returns in all her garrulous glory with an album's worth of self-written songs and the sure hand of Jack White at the controls to make the reactionary piffle that is mainstream country appear all the more inconsequential and embarrassing by comparison. New being on the Kitty Wells comeback album produced by Beck!
2. **JUAN MOLINA** *Tres Cosas* (Domino)
Breathy Argentine electrofolk songstress started out as a popular TV comedian. You think we'd get music this lush and intoxicating from Deborah Messing? "Sálvese Quién Puede" is my song of the year for people who have outgrown hallucinogens but still look back fondly.
3. **MASTADON** *Leviathan* (Relapse)
A distinct refinement of the bludgeoning force mustered on last year's *Remission*, the present album eases off the shriekiness, turns up the epicness and comes packaged in the coolest artwork of any album I've seen this year, plus a DVD of 5.1 remixes that wrap your head in the swirling chaos of four guys riffing their nuts off while barking about their quest for the great white whale. Whew!
4. **SLAYER** *Still Reigning* DVD (American/Sony)
The original line-up assaults a wildly flailing, tit-baring capacity crowd somewhere in Maine with a live recital of their early thrash classic, *Reign in Blood*, climaxing with a shower of blood during the title track that drenches the band (except for guitarist Jeff Hanneman, who can't find his mark on stage). The hairlines and chins recede, but the aggression and immature stage banter remain intact.
5. **THE BLACK KEYS** *Rubber Factory* (Fat Possum)
I thought last year's *Thickfreakness* was the definitive statement of this Ohio-based twosome's primal blues-rock leanings and all subsequent releases would be progressively weaker iterations of the same approach. Turns out there's plenty more sonic inventiveness and soul where that came from, with "The Lengths" presenting a particularly stunning assertion of a fragile, wistful beauty you'd never have thought they had in 'em.

See Best of, page 28

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Best of

Continued from page 26

6. **CHANNELS** Open (deSoto)

J Robbins of Burning Airlines and Jawbox fame rounds up a new rhythm section to underpin his brainy, guitar-intensive alt-rock on this debut EP, which features a pretty nifty John Cale cover in the bargain. Not his best work, but better than a year without new music from a J Robbins-led band.

7. **ERIK B AND RAKIM** *Follow the Leader* (Uni Records)

This album is 16 years old, but in the absence of a really great new hip hop album to put in my Walkman, I had to do something. "All the bells and whistles" takes on new meaning in light of Erik B's seminal old school beats, and Rakim's razor-sharp rhymes have been so relentlessly riffed on, it's incumbent on all hip hop heads to go back and hear how cool they sounded the first time.

8. **WILCO** *A Ghost is Born* (Nonesuch)

Flirting with self-indulgence in extra-long songs and passages of oblique noise barely mitigates the intrinsic melancholy shimmer of Jeff Tweedy's psychologically damaged pop gems. And even in the pervading gloom, the band trots out some convincing rockers. I hope Tweedy's feeling better, but then again, I kind of hope he isn't.

9. **SOUNDS LIKE BRAILLE** *Right Out of Left Field, Straight to the Middle of Nowhere...* (Contraphonic)

The middle of nowhere is Menasha, Wisconsin, an unlikely source of dense instrumental prog-rock, but there you go. I've fallen in and out of love with this album about 20 times, reveling in the musical prowess and grittiness reminiscent of Don Caballero one minute, tiring of its drawn-out theme-and-polyrhythmic-variations the next. But I sure did listen to it a lot this year.

10 **MASADA STRING TRIO** *John Zorn 50th Birthday Performance* (Tzadik)

One of a series of albums recorded live during the month of celebrations for composer/conductor/saxophonist Zorn's half-centenary in 2003, this disc reunites cellist Erik Friedlander, violinist Mark Feldman, and bassist Greg Cohen to freak out under Zorn's baton on a program of his klezmer-inspired Masada songs. Soaring, screeching, intense chamber music with hints of jazz, Latin and G-d knows what.

CRAIG ELLIOTT

1. **MADVILLAIN** *Madvillainy*
2. **C.AARME** Self-titled (Burning Heart)
3. **DEATH FROM ABOVE 1979** *You're a Woman, I'm a Machine*
4. **MCLUSKY** *The Difference Between Me and You is that I'm Not On Fire*
5. **AFRODIZZ** *Kif Kif*
6. **THE GIN PALACE** *Kill-Grief*
7. **BLACK DICE** *Creature Comforts*
8. **NEKO CASE** *The Tigers Have Spoken*
9. **IRON & WINE** *Our Endless Numbered Days*
10. **DANGER MOUSE** *The Grey Album*

Let all those other goofballs go on and on about what made each and every record so goddamn precious to them and their sorry-ass 2004s. Why justify, ya fuggin' saps? You could do a lot worse than these, and now that I think about it, you probably did, you JOE-listening choad-smokers.

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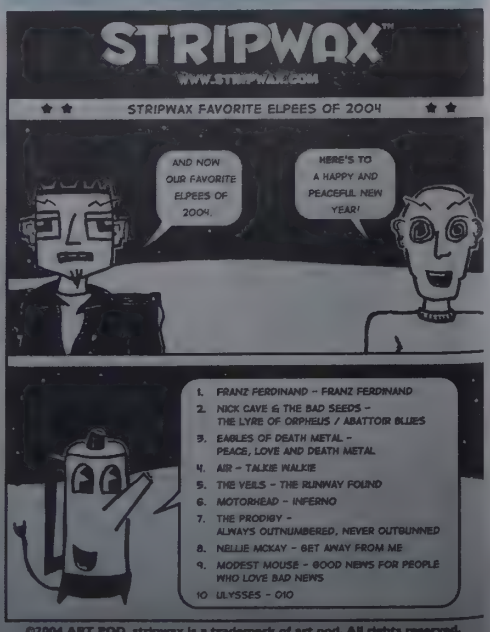

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Restaurant REVIEWS

VEGETARIAN / HEALTH

Cafe Mosaics *10844—82 Ave. 433 - 9702* With a newly revamped menu, Mosaics makes its way to your heart with simple, unpretentious vegetarian fare at reasonable prices. New dishes include the Secret Burrito and the Teriyaki Portabella Mushroom Salad. You can only get their excellent Huevos Rancheros for Sunday brunch, but it's definitely worth getting up for.★★★★

Savoy's Health Café *11010—51 Ave. 437- 7718* Don't let the anglophile name fool you, this pillbox-sized diner near Southgate Mall specializes in revitalizing juices and Indian delights like the Masala Dossa. A little out of the way, but worth the trip. ★★★★

BRUNCH & BREAKFAST FAVOURITES

Café de Ville *10137—124 St. 488 - 9188* Despite the fact I've had some above-average dinners in this classy Edwardian-era dining room, the brunch is to totally die for, from the piping-hot selection of just-baked buns and muffins to hefty entrees that should have the decadence cops slashing down the door. You'll never leave de Ville anything short of satiated. ★★★★★

High Level Diner *10912—88 Ave. 433 - 0993* Though an excellent overall restaurant, High Level's brunches and breakfasts have a special place in my heart. From super-decadent to totally healthy, the offerings at this Edmonton eating-out institution are always top-notch. Go early on weekends. ★★★★

ASIAN

Bul-Go-Gi House *8813— 92 St. 466 - 2330* For many Edmontonians, the Bul-Go-Gi House is their first taste of Korean cuisine. Great place to start; the eponymous foodstuff is a meat-lover's delight. The Bee Beem Barp (Mountain Vegetables) ain't so bad either. And at the end of it all: Juicy Fruit. ★★★★

Tropika *6004 Calgary Trail S. 439 - 6699* Malaysian cooking is the original infusion food—British, Indian, Chinese, Thai, Arabic and native Malay cooking. Excellent and well-prepared lunches at reasonable prices. We'll be back for dinner. ★★★★

CAJUN

Dadeo Restaurant *10548A—82 Ave. 433 - 0930* The menu has been tweaked a bit lately, but the stuff you've always loved about Dadeo's is still there. Combo platters, salads, gumbos, the always-tasty sweet potato fries, and the delicious po' boys on special every Monday and Tuesday night. Try the breakfast sometime: sweet potato pancakes, anyone? Hell yeah. ★★★★

Louisiana Purchase *10320—111 St. 420 - 6779* My Cottonpickin' Chicken was consumed tasty and with unhurried grace, our server saw to it we never wanted for anything – breadsticks, water, utensils, coffee, she had it all covered. ★★★1/2

CENTRAL AMERICAN

Los Comales *10824—97 St. 423 - 1213* An almost one-woman show, offering authentic and unpretentious Salvadoran and Mexican dishes in a cheap and cheerful downtown eatery. Try the pupusas and chuchitos. ★★★

INDIAN & EASTERN

Khazana *10177—107 St., 702 – 0330* Shades of amber light play upon the heavy wooden ceiling beams and exquisitely embroidered wall hangings. Divided into "Pride of Gardens," "Cooked in our Clay Pots," and "From our Tandoor," the tome provides a culinary tour of the Indian Subcontinent. However it is the tandoori Khazana has built its reputation on, and the dish excels. ★★★★

New Asian Village *10143 Saskatchewan Dr 433 - 3804* Esteemed for its mouthwatering Indian fare and extensive beer selection, New Asian Village puts up nice buffets Wednesday and Sunday nights. Pace yourself. ★★★★

ITALIAN

Allegro Italian Kitchen *10011—109 St., 424 – 6644* There is exceptional pasta to be had, and you can trust Allegro to come through with the requisite trimmings-a glass of house red, a nice salad (Insalata Allegro) and a good platter of non-monotonoous, flavourful pasta. Allegro puts up an attractive slate of specials every night very much in line with what they already do so well. ★★★★

Il Portico *10012—107 St. 424 - 0707* In some dining rooms you go to spot celebrities, at Il Portico you are the celebrity (given the way they treat you). Delightful Italian/continental offerings, buoyant room, brilliant wine cellar and some of the best service staff in Edmonton make for a memorable dining event every time out. ★★★★★

Sicilian Pasta Kitchen *11239 Jasper Ave., 488 – 3838* Sicilian Pasta Kitchen has a great reputation-the food is made from scratch, there's an impressive selection of pasta, pizza, entrees and appetizers, and the portions are generous, which wouldn't be a big deal if the food weren't consistently good. But I've never been disappointed by a meal at the Sicilian Pasta Kitchen. ★★★ 1/2

MEDITERRANEAN

Yianni's Taverna Restaurant *10444—82 Ave* Reliably good Greek food in a nice character room smack-dab on Whyte, Yianni's is also renowned for the exuberant atmosphere that sometimes spills into the street, and sometimes into your lap. ★★★★

Ziveli *12202 Jasper Ave. 453 - 3912* Evincing Greek and Yugoslavian influences, this "Balkan Restorant" is a great place to linger over delicious appetizers like saganaki, calamari and olives with anchovies as you savour a bottle of Yugoslavian red. For $21.99 per person you can sample a dozen items off the menu, which includes souvlaki, moussaka and Adriatic shrimp. Attractive patio for summer dining. ★★★★1/2

PIZZA

The Funky Pickle *10441—82 Ave. 433 - 3865* A Funky Pickle pizza means whole-wheat dough, real cheese (including Asiago and Feta), fresh vegetables and ingredients and real attention to detail. ★★★★

Pharo's Pizza *8708—109 St. 433 - 5205* I'm not going to commit the faux pas of saying that Pharo's is the best pizza in town (my god, that's like choosing a favourite among your children), but will state that it's certainly in my personal top 10. The joint also has that retro-diner coolness and is perfectly situated beside the Garneau Theatre for pre- or post-show pigging out. ★★★★

SUSHI & TEPPAN

Kyoto Japanese Cuisine *10128—109 St. 420 - 1750* One of two locations on 109 St., this Kyoto sports tatami rooms, a long sushi bar and the same menu as its southside sister—lots of variety in appetizers, sushi, udon and entrees. The rainbow roll, broiled scallop in misonaise and beef tataki are all worth a try. ★★★★

Sushi Wasabi *5714—111 St. 433 - 0533* I miss their little take-out kiosk in the Strathcona Chinatown Mall, but the new digs suit the elegance and quality of the food. Good assortment of entrees but, really, try the sushi. Or at least the avocado-shiitake roll. ★★★★

BURGERS

Burger Baron *9908—70 Ave., 433 – 7634* The Baron retains footholds all over Alberta, with seven or eight outlets around Edmonton, and offers 12 varieties of burger, from the Gourmet (ham, cheese, bacon, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, pickles and "our special red sauce") to the Pomo (pineapple slices and "our special red sauce") in three different sizes. My tray was empty in under five minutes and I finished the milkshake on the walk home. ★★★

Garage Bar & Grill *10242—106 St 423 - 5014* Named for the fact it's housed in a renovated garage, the Garage is one of those lunchtime secrets for downtown fast-food junkies in the know. A wonderful selection of diner-style entrees, sandwiches and finger foods and big ol' burgers parked alongside a heap of award-winning fries. Good soup too ★★★

COFFEE HOUSES & PUBS

Brewster's *11620—104 Ave., 482-4677* The prairie brewpub chain produces 14 handcrafted beers and offers salvation to the hangover afflicted with all-day happy hour ($3.69 a pint). My cup of soup was smooth and subtly smoky, but not overly memorable. I was, however, prepared to clear the rest of my schedule to further explore Brewster's beer menu. ★★★

Two Rooms Café *10324—82 Ave., 439 – 8386* This lentil soup is the stuff of legend: thick and hearty, potently seasoned and satisfying. Along with soup and some appetizers, deluxe gourmet sandwiches and sides satisfy your appetite with that which is simultaneously familiar and totally unique. ★★★

Zuppa Café *9843—110 St., 482 – 1741* The neighbourhood café has become an institution due to its welcoming, sun-splashed confines, quality cooking and superb coffee. Zuppa has all day breakfast, grilled sandwiches, salads, wraps, pasta and other daily specials that never break the $10 ceiling and constitute quite a healthy portion. ★★★ 1/2

CASUAL ELEGANT

Bistro Praha *10168—100A St 424 - 4218* Bistro is a place of civility and comfort, allowing you to dine like a gourmet on wiener schnitzel, lamb chops, finely wrought beef, chicken and seafood dishes. There's also an array of sandwiches, salads and picnic-style plates at very reasonable prices. ★★★★

The Blue Iguana *11304—104 Ave., 424 - 7222* The tidy, spacious dining room of the Blue Iguana near Oliver Square offers not only toothsome and satisfying southwestern-style cuisine but also intriguing beverages of both the hot and cold variety. ★★★★

Café Select *10018—106 St. 423 - 0419* Reviewing Café Select is like reviewing Shakespeare: what can you say about a classic? This cosy, homage-Renaissance room is all about balancing mood, service and deft cuisine to add up to a delightful evening out. ★★★★

Characters Restaurant *10257—105 St. 421 - 4100* Blending traditional tea room elegance with postmodern panache and an uptown menu, Characters is a brilliant addition to downtown's culinary culture. Loads of fresh ingredients, a deft kitchen and sublime service make for a memorable meal ★★★★★

The Copper Pot *#101 9707—110 St., 452 – 7800* The cozy booths are a good place to sit, enjoy the view, or work your way down the long list of martinis. Standard fare dotes on seafood (from Coquilles St. Jacques and panfried trout to lobster thermidor) with forays into poultry-beef, game, and schnitzel ★★★★

Dante's Bistro *17328 Stony Plain Rd 486 - 4448* Under the helm of chef Emmanuel David, this brand-new eatery is red-hot. Gourmet-level cuisine served in big big portions with an easy-on-your-wallet pricing regime. Expect a wait if you go on weekends ★★★★

Four Rooms *Edmonton Centre 426 - 4767* A great venue for music or a quiet elegant meal Four Rooms brings together a variety of cuisines while keeping the quality consistent Right now, their tapas menu is $5 a plate Monday through Wednesday evenings ★★★1/2

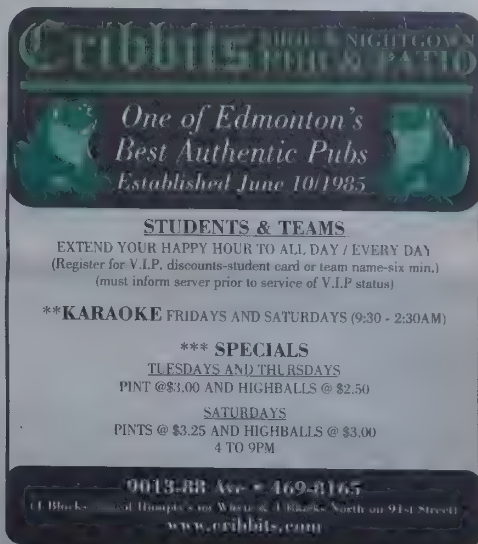
Nait Dining Room *11762—106 St* Avenue for NAIT's culinary arts students, at first glance, the salad was just beautiful to behold, but then the complexity and interplay of the varied flavours! The beef seemed to dissipate into pure flavour at the merest prompting of my molars. Not only did I feel schooled, I was dizzy with satiety. Recommended: make reservations in advance ★★★★

The Red Ox Inn *9420—91 St., 465 – 5727* Rustic and comfortable, with a scant 32 seats. There are thankfully just a handful of appetizers, salads and entrees—so as not to leave you rife with indecision—the wine list is epic by comparison. The entrees were almost too good to eat-The Red Ox Inn has added one more to their list of people who will happily go around promulgating their well-deserved reputation ★★★★ 1/2

Rigoletto's *10068—108 St. 429-0701* Rigoletto's is, of course, a long-time staple of Edmonton's restaurant scene, home to dependable Italian food, ... beef, chicken and seafood entrees, ... daily menus and a fine venue for late-night dining and drinks. Just stepping into its chiaroscuro confines has an ... effect ★★★★

FAST FOOD

Rigatony's *10371—112 St., 425 – 2226* This Philly cheese steak was grilled fresh with plenty of onions, peppers and mushrooms, dosed with spicy sauce, draped with provolone and scooped into a bun lined with tomatoes, mayo and mustard to order. The uncontainable quantity of tender beef spilled in all directions; in short, it was a fine Philly cheese steak. ★★★



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EIGHT DAYS A WEEK

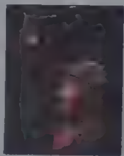
PICK OF THE WEEK

PICK OF THE WEEK
KEY OF A — This Wednesday the Sidetrack Café (10333-112 St.) is hosting a performance by Edmonton's own Ben Sures. The show is being recorded live for CBC's *Key of A* program. At around 8:30 pm, opening band the Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir will be warming up the show with a set of their newgrass style roots sounds.

THURSDAY

DIETZCHE V — On Thursday night, hipster favourites Dietzche V and the Abominable Snowman will be inspiring the ass shakers in the Victory Lounge (*10030-102 St.*) The show will also feature Bolide & local live'n'electronic hooligans Shout Out Out Out Out. Tickets are available at the door, and the show will get started around 10 pm.

FRIDAY



A CHRISTMAS CAROL — The Citadel Theatre's production of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* will wrap up this Friday evening. The Final performance will take place at 7:30 pm. In this year's production, Tom Wood and Bob Baker have pulled out all the stops to create a spectacle that will thrill the senses and dazzle the imaginations of adults and children alike. Tickets are $39 - $85 and still available from the Citadel box office (*9828-101A Ave.*)

SATURDAY

CHRISTMAS DAY — It's Christmas day dammit, so you probably already know what you are doing. Either spend the time with friends and family, feasting and glowing... or be like me and hit the couch with a bottle of wine, a giant bag of cheezies, and a stack of James Bond movie rentals.

SUNDAY

THE KING AND I — On Boxing Day, you can avoid the mall madness and instead, attend the latest theatrical production at Festival Place in Sherwood Park. The current performance is Rodgers & Hammerstein's romantic tale *The King And I*, and the matinee will take place on Sunday at 2 pm. Tickets are $15 - $20 by calling 449-3379.

MONDAY

BLUE CHRISTMAS — Almost everyone has the day off work on Monday, but not the good folks at Blues on Whyte (*10329-82 Ave.*) They will be open and hosting a live blues rock performance by Jimmy Payne & the House of Payne. It's a chance to shake off the post Christmas blues with a few drinks and by dancing to some... er... post Christmas blues. Cover is always cheap at the door.

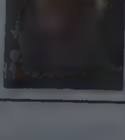
TUESDAY

ESCALATOR DOWNSTAIRS — On Tuesday night Edmonton's own Escalator will be descending into the Victory Lounge (*10030-102 St.*) for a show with The Current Swell. Escalator is a rock project conceived by locals Dustin Cole & Scott Davidchuk, and with these guys at the helm, you can be sure there will be some solid songs and probably more than a hint of that pop-roots sound that seems to follow these boys around. The show will start around 10 pm.

WEDNESDAY

VICTORY JAM — We might as well just declare this Victory Lounge week, cause it seems they have everything happening over this Christmas week. On Wednesday night the weekly open jam will feature guest hosts The Guaranteed along with DJ Pinch Selecta. The open stage will take place right smack in the middle and everyone is invited to sign up and get in on the show. The Victory Lounge is located below the Starlite Room at 10030-102 St.

NEXT THURSDAY



PRE NEW-YEARS BASH — On December 30, the Krobar (*10551-82 Ave.*) is hosting a pre New Years rock party with headliners Headruin. Headruin will be joined by Toxin and Section Eight for a night of hard rock and hard drinking. Cover is payable at the door.

LIVE MUSIC

Alternative

BLACK DOG *10425-82 Ave., 439-1082* — **Fri Dec 31** Shuyler Jansen & the Swifty's
KROBAR *10551-82 Ave.* — **Thu** Joshua's Habit **Sun** Las Vegas Crypt Keepers w/ Of Dementia **Thu. Dec 30** Headruin w/ Toxin & Section Eight **Fri Dec 31** Broken Nose & Snap Back Gnarler
THE MELTING POT *10351 – 82 Ave* — **Fri** SMAC **Sat** Leo FX
RED'S *WEM, 482-6420* — **Fri, Dec 31** Tom Cochrane & Red Ryder
SEEDY'S *10314-104 St., 421-0992* — **Fri, Dec 31.** Les Tabernacles w/ The Blame-its
STARLITE ROOM *10030-102 St.* — **Fri, Dec 31** Social Code w/ Long Way Down
VICTORY LOUNGE *10030-102 St.* — **Thu** Dietzche V and the Abominable Snowman w/ Bolide & Shout Out Out Out Out **Tue** Escalator w/ The Current Swell

Blues & Roots

BLUES ON WHYTE *10329-82 Ave., 439-5058* — **Thu** Tim Lee **Dec 27 – Jan 1** Jimmy Payne & the House of Payne
HONEST MUR'S *8937-82 Ave., 463-6397* — **Fri, Dec 31** Dwayne Cannan
LB'S COUNTRY PUB *23 Akins Dr St. Albert* — **Fri, Dec 31**, Look Twice
NEWCASTLE PUB *6108-90 Ave., 490-1999* — **Fri, Dec 31** Willie & the Haymakers

Jazz

FOUR ROOMS *137 Edm. City Centre, 426-4767* — **Thu** Rhonda Withnell **Wed** Shucker **Thu Dec 30** Shucker
JULIAN'S PIANO BAR *Chateau Louis Hotel, 11727 Kingsway Ave., 732-4583* — Every **Wed** Late Nite Jazz w/ Graham J, 9:30 - 11:30 pm Every **Fri** Unwind with Gary Boweman, 5 - 8 pm Every **Sat** Fabulous Tuxedo Junkies, 8 11 pm

Pop & Rock

CASINO EDMONTON *7055 Argyll Rd., 463-9467* — **Dec 30** & **31** Colleen Rae & Cornerstone
CASINO YELLOWHEAD *12464-153 St., 424-9467* — **Thu** Rockolas **Dec 30 - Jan 1** Catalyst
THE CIRCLE R *13620-97 St., 476-6241* — **Fri, Dec 31** Hypnotizen Ride
COWBOYS *10102-180 St.* — **Wed** Collective Soul
THE FOX PUB *100, 10125-109 St., 990-0680* — **Sun** Lost Republik w/ Synpsycle
J.J'S PUB *13160-118 Ave.* — **Thu** Manhattan Jack w/ Just Drive **Thu, Dec 30** The New Vain **Fri, Dec 31** Tyrant
LIVEWIRE *1107 Knotwood Rd. E, 440-1063* — **Fri, Dec 31** Three Chords & the Truth
MILTON'S CAFE *10235-124 St.* — Every **Sat** World Beats Jam
THE ONE *10544-82 Ave., 437-7699* — **Fri, Dec 31** Wide Mouth Mason.
SIDETRACK CAFÉ *10333-112 St., 421-1326* — **Thu** Shuyler Jansen's Hobotron w/ Chad Van Gaalen **Sun** Free Beer & Pie **Tue** John Wort Hannam, Hootin Annies, Joanne & Haley Myrol, Shawndel, Jamie Calan & Gordie Matthews **Wed** Ben Sures w/ The Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir
STOLLI'S *10368-82 Ave., 437-2293* — **Tue** African Bash, Ugandan children's benefit
UNION HALL *Argyll & 99 St., 702-0318* — **Fri, Dec 31** Mustard Smile
URBAN LOUNGE *8111-105 St., 439-3388* — **Thu** Hyndsyt **Fri Dec 31** Connors Road.
WUNDERBAR HAFBRAUHAUS *8120-101 St., 436-2286* — **Fri, Dec 31** Last Man Down & live German music

Pub Music

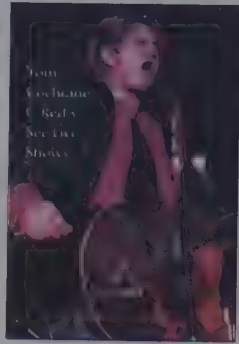
ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL *7704-104 St., 432-4611* — **Fri, Dec 31** Duff Robinson
DUKE OF ARGYLL *7230-Argyll Rd., 465-7931* — **Fri, Dec 31** Rat Pack

DANCE CLUBS

UPDATE YOUR CLUB LISTING BY CONTACTING SILAS @ 430-9003, FAX 432-1102 OR EMAIL info@see.greatwest.ca.

Alternative

THE ATTIC *10407-82 Ave, 433-1969* — **Wed** Hi-ball Night **Thu** Student Nite
BACKROOM VODKA BAR *10324-82 Ave (upstairs), 436-4418* — **Mon** Local Motive house progressive, techno w/ guests **Wed** Wild Cherry Wednesdays deep house & mid-tempo grooves w/ Tripswitch & guests **Fri** FDCO 780 presents "The Next Episode" w/ Simon Locke Ariel Roel & guests **Sat** Flava, hip hop w/ Shortround, Echo & guests **Sun** Moonlight Cinema 9 pm *Simpsons*, a movie & D.
BOOTS *10242 106 St 423-5014* - Open 7 days/week Happy Hour 3 to 8 pm **Fri** Retro Disco **Sat** Flashback Saturdays w/ DJs Derrick & Manny Mulatto Male Stripper 11 pm
BUDDY'S NIGHT CLUB *11725B-Jasper Ave, 488-6636* — **Mon** Amateur Strip Off (Midnight) w/prizes, DJ JiffyPop



Tue DJ JiffyPop **Wed** Hot Crotch Contest w/prizes, DJ JiffyPop **Thu** Wet Underwear Contest w/prizes, shirtless men = shirtless drinks, DJ Jiffy Pop **Fri** Hot Friday w/DJ Arrowchaser **Sat** Animal Night w/ DJ Arrowchaser, drink specials **Sun** Industry night w/ staff prices & DJ Alvaro
CALIENTE LATIN CLUB *10815 Jasper Ave., 425-0850* — **Sat** Community night w/ DJs Nightcrawler and Anthony Rizzuto spinning progressive, house, trance, breaks. $5 after 11:30 pm
CLIMAXX AFTERHOURS *10018-105 St.* — **Fri** Hard house & trance w Crunchee, Mr. Anderson, Charlie Mayhem & Shortee **Sat** House & hard house w/ Will Danger, Donovan, Protégé, Jaw-dee, Tomek & LP
DECADENCE *10018 – 105 St.* — **Wed** Metrophage industrail, ebm, neoclassical, noise, ambient w/ Dj Verlaag, Xerxes & Dervish
DEVLIN'S *10507-82 Ave, 437-7489* — Happy hour until 7 pm every night.
THE ELEPHANT & CASTLE WHYTE AVE *10314-82 Ave, 439-4545* — **Thu** Sleeman Method Thursdays – DJ Headspin, down-tempo & eclectic hip hop. www.eandcwhyte.com
FILTHY MCNASTY'S *10511-82 Ave (upstairs), 437-7489* — Happy Hour Every Day 5 -9 pm **Mon** Metal Mondays **Tue** Twisted Trivia **Wed** Bar star college night **Thu** Punk Rock Bingo **Fri & Sat** Shake Yo' Ass Weekend w/ DJ Serial K (dance, alt, rock, retro) **Sun** Open stage w/ Mike Caton
HALO *10538 Jasper Ave, 423-4256* — **Fri** The Mod Club Soul, R&B, indie, Brit pop, new wave, reggae & classic punk w/ DJs Blue Jay & Travy D **Sat** For Those Who Know . deep house w/ Junior Brown, Remo, Simon Locke (monthly resident)
JAX'S *12315-118 Ave., 448-3650* — **Fri** Whatda Funk w/ DJ Resident Funk & Matt Hatter, house drum 'n' bass **Sat** DJ Nostalgia & guests, house hardhouse, trance NC **Sun** Free pool all day, freestyle put your name down.
KROBAR *10545 Whyte Ave., 439-1422* — **Thu** Live & Loud Thursdays **Fri** Rock & Metal w/ DJ Matty
NEW CITY *10081 Jasper Ave, 429-CLUB* — **Mon** New Music / Industry Night w/ DJ Schnaw **Tue** Stupid music for stupid people w/ Squirelly B & King Flux Alpha **Wed** Honey Deep Housey Beats **Thu** Rub a Dub Thursdays **Fri** Live Music (see Live Music listings) **Sat** Saturdays Suck, the Legend Continues **Sun** Progress Electroclash/Mashmixes/Trashrock.
PRISM BAR & GRILL *10524-101 St., 990-0038* — **Wed** Wings **Thu** Sports trivia. Call for upcoming events.
THE ROOST *10345-104 St., 426-3150* — Cover: Tues – Thu $1 members, $2 non-members, after 10 pm, $4; Fri & Sat, $4 members, $6 non-members; Sun $1 everyone. Hours: Sun – Thu, 8 pm – 3 am; Fri & Sat, 8 pm – 4 am. **Tue** Flamingo Bingo w/ DJ Janny **Wed** Amateur Strip w/ Weena Luv, Sticky Vicky & DJ Alvaro, Happy hour till Midnight **Thu** Rotating shows, Sticky's open stage & the Weakest Link Game, 2nd & last Thu, DJ Jazzy, drink specials 8 – 11 pm **Fri** Euro Blitz, best new European music w/ DJ Outtawak upstairs, DJ Jazzy **Sat** Monthly theme parties, DJ Jazzy upstairs (new music), DJ Dan & Mike downstairs (retro music) **Sun** Betty Ford Hangover Clinic show, DJ Jazzy Info www.theroostniteclub.com.
SAVOY BAR *10401-82 Ave.* — **Thu** Unhooked w/ Ben & Bob Trampoline **Fri** Love Will Tear You Apart: indie, postrock & electro w/ Briana & Chris **Sat** Deep house & sexy beats w/ Slick **Sun** French pop w/ Deja DJ.
SEEDY'S *10314-104 St., 421-0992* — **Tue** Electrotrash w/ DJ Miss Mannered **Wed** Learning to Hunt w/ Megatunes **Thu** Hot Chicks & Hotter Wax.
TANTRA *10147 Saskatchewan Dr, 434-8699* — **Mon - Thu & Sun** 5 pm - Midnight; **Fri & Sat** 5 pm - 2 am (Dancing 10 pm - 2 am)
VICTORY LOUNGE *10030-102 St.* — **Tue** Random Tuesdays movies, live music, guest DJs **Wed** Jam Wednesdays **Thu** Nmls Welcome no wave, dance punk, hip hop w/ DJ Nik7 **Fri** Vindictive Metal w/ The Vindictive Bastard & guest DJs/performers **Sat** I Am Damo Suzuki indie obscure electronic w/ DJ Mittens & Bob Crane **Mon** Self Help: hip hop, pop, rock w/ DJ Slipped Disc.
WOODY'S *11725B Jasper Ave (Upstairs), 488-6636* — **Sun – Wed** open at 1 pm daily, Karaoke 7 pm **Tue** Pasta Specials **Sat & Sun** Brunch **Fri & Sat** DJ Arrowchaser. **Mon** Margarita Mondays **Wed** Game Show Wednesdays **Sat** Male Stripper, 11 pm Hours: Mon - Thu 1 pm - Midnight, Fri 1 pm - 3 am, Sat Noon - 3 pm, Sun Noon — Midnight
Y AFTERHOURS *Back of 10030A-102 St.* — **Fri** F&@K it Fridays Anthony Donahue Tripswitch Juicy, LP Dragon, Old Bitch Dragon, Charlie Mayhem & Sureshock **Sat** Enn Eden Juicy Ryan Wade, Luke Morrison, Darcy Klein Donovan & Greg Wynn
WUNDERBAR HOFBAUHAUS *8120 – 101 St. 436-2286* — **Mon** American & indie **Tue** Reggae & Ska **Wed** Hardcore **Thu** Punk **Fri** Comedy **Sat** German Accordion **Sun** Rockabilly & psychobilly

Top 40

ARMOURY DANCE LOUNGE *10310-85 Ave, 702 1800* — **Mon** Go-girl night: ladies night, male entertainment, magician, balloon artist, drink specials **Thu** 5 for $5 **Fri** Hot for Teacher **Sat** Retro '80s-'90s upstairs/Top 40 downstairs **Long Weekend** Colour parties – choose a theme colour and plan a party. Info. www.armourydancelounge.com
AZUCAR *11733-78 St., 479-7400* — **Tue** Traditional country bands **Thu** Urban w/ DJ Love Jones **Fri** Free Salsa Lessons, Ladies free until 11pm **Sat** Live Latin bands. Info: www.edmontonazucar.com
BAR NONE *10545-82 Ave., 405-1000* — Drink specials all night **Fri & Sat.**
BILLIARD CLUB *#200, 10505-82 Ave., 433-3654* — **Thu** Tantric Thursdays, Live DJ, drink specials.
B-STREET BAR *11818-111 Ave, 414-0545* — **Wed - Sun** Brad Scott.
BLIND DUCK *10416-118 Ave., 479-7193* — **Wed & Fri** DJ Grand Master Rich Carr.
CAFÉ SELECT *10018-106 St., 428-1629* — **Fri** DJ Slacks & Tryptomene
CALIENTE NIGHT CLUB *10815 Jasper Ave, 425-0850* — **Thu** Urban Substance ladies night **Fri** Function Fridays w/ DJ Invinceable & MC J-Money **Sat** DJ Invinceable **Sun** Ladies Night w/ DJ Invinceable, **Wed** Old Skool w/ DJ Shoka-Sean, DJ Sin & DJ Instigate, **Tue** Bashment reggae night NC B4 11 pm, $6 after 11 pm.
CEILI'S IRISH PUB *10338-109 St., 426-5555* — **Mon** Get Your Funk On w/ Quake **Fri** Cinco De Mayo **Sat** Various Fundraisers, **Wed** Hot Wheels.
CHASE NIGHTCLUB *10345-105 St.* — **Tue** Calypso & Latin dance **Fri** Status Friday, R&B, hip hop & reggae.
CHIMMY'S *8318-144 Ave., 478-1770* — **Sat** Ladies Night, Top 40 **Sun** happy hour all day, free pool.
CLAREVIEW PUB *132 Ave & Victoria Tr, 414-1111* — **Tue & Thu** Karaoke **Wed** DJ Lex & DJ Fiore **Fri & Sat** Drink specials. Happy Hour Daily 11 am - 7 pm & all day **Sun** DJ Fiore plays today's hottest hits & yesterday's classics NC ever!
COWBOYS SALOON *10120-180 St., 481-8739* — **Tue** Ladies Night **Thu** .25 draft **Fri** Fun-tastic weekends **Sat** "Does your bladder matter?" contest.
CRISTAL LOUNGE *10336 Jasper Ave, 426-7521* — **Fri** Fundraiser Night, call 990—3692 for bookings **Sat** Legendary Urban Saturdays (R&B, hip hop, reggae, soca) w/DJ Invinceable & MC J-Money, $8.
DARIEN'S COCKTAILS & FINE FOOD *5552 Calgary Tr S, 439-8675* — Full menu, happy hour every day 4 - 7 pm, wing specials, daily specials, games room, living room, big screen TV.
THE DRUID *11606 Jasper Ave., 454-9928* — **Thu** Chris Wynters & guest **Sat** Harpdog Brown, 3 pm. Open long weekend Sundays
ELEVATION LOUNGE *10309-81 Ave (upstairs), 433-4979* — DJ 4Play playing the best of top 40 & retro music all week long **Wed** Guest bartenders **Thu** Salsa Night, 8 pm NC
ESCAPE ULTRA LOUNGE *WEM, 489-1330* — **Thu** Ladies Night, drink specials **Fri** Freedom Fridays w/ Shocker **Sat** Evolution Saturdays w/ Shocker R&B, Top 40, Retro www.edmontonnightclubs.com
THE FOX PUB *10125-109 St., 990-0680* — Drinks specials every day Mon Bud football **Wed** Music Trivia **Fri & Sat** DJ retro tunes for everyone Sun live local music.
GALLERY LOUNGE *Mayfield Inn, 16615-109 Ave., 930-4061* — **Tue** Name that tune **Thu** Twister night **Sat** DJ Steve
GAS PUMP *10166-114 St., 488-4841* — **Mon** NFL Football **Tue & Wed** Karaoke, drink specials & pool leagues **Thu** Twoonie Thursday drink special, 9 pm – 2 am, cash giveaway every month **Fri & Sat** Drink specials 9 - 10:30 pm, dance music by DJ Christian **Sun** Open most long weekend Sundays, drink specials 8:30 - 10:30 pm, dance music by DJ Travis. Mandatory coat check/dress code/no cover charge.
GLOBE TAP BAR & GRILL *10045-109 St., 426-7111* — **Wed** Wings Night, starts @ 2 pm **Thu** Half price everything **Fri & Sat** Top 40 w/ dancing **Sun** Industry night
GREENHOUSE NIGHTCLUB *Neighborhood Inn 13103 Fort Rd, 472-9898* — Thu Ladies night w/ male reviews **Fri & Sat** DJ Fever, drink specials
THE GRINDER BAR *10957-124 St., 453-1709* — **Fri & Sat** Live Music (Blues, Classic Rock, New Rock) Draft, Shooter specials. prize giveaways **Sun** Karaoke, free pool all day.
THE GUILTY MARTINI SOUTH *10338-81 Ave. 433-7183* — Open **Wed - Sat**, 6 pm – 2 am. **Wed** Drink specials **Thu** Students Night **Fri** Diva night **Sat** Guilty groove party Open Sunday long weekends, Live DJ every night.
H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE *10044-82 Ave, 433-5794* — **Tue & Thu & Sat & Sun** Karaoke DJ Double Jack plays the best in dance, rock & pop.
THE HIGH RUN CLUB *4926-98 Ave, 440-2233* — Sports & billiards, 14 types of draught beer on tap **Tue** Name that Tune 9 pm **Wed** Loonie pool night **Fri & Sat** Live entertainment **Sun** Happy hour all day.
IRON HORSE *8101-103 St., 438-1907* — **Fri** DJ Loose Cannon **Sat** Urban dance party w/ DJ 420.
THE JOINT NIGHTCLUB *2554 WEM, 8882-170th St., 486-3013* — **Wed** Industry Wednesdays Ladies Nite w/

LEGEND

TM — Ticketmaster (451-8000 or on-line @ www.ticketmaster.ca)
TIX — TIX on the Square (420-1757)
WIN — Winspear Centre Box Office (428-1414 or 1-800-563-5081)
ARD – Arden Theatre (459 1542 or www.ardentheatre.com)
FES – Festival Place (449-FEST or www.festivalplace.ab.ca
HOR – Horizon Stage (962 8995 or www.horizonstage.com)
NC — No Cover
AA — All Ages

male dancers **Fri** Fresh Fridays presented by Urban Metropolis Sound Crew, 2 Floors, 2 DJs 2 Sounds, drink specials **Sat** In Shambles Saturdays Info: www.edmontonnightclubs.com
KELLY'S *11540 Jasper Ave, 451-8825* — **Mon** Free Pool **Wed** & **Sun** Karaoke Happy Hour 11 am - 7 pm daily
KINGSKNIGHT PUB *9221-34 Ave 433-2599* — **Mon** Watch Monday Night Football on 15ft screen **Tue** Big Easy Tuesdays in the Venue (inside Kingsknight), buy a wristband ($10) get $1 drinks **Wed** Sake to Me Wednesdays, sushi & sake on special, karaoke hosted by Smirking Jay 9 pm **Thu** Live music, drink specials, karaoke w/ Smirking Jay in the Venue **Fri** Ladies Night in the Venue w/ male dancers 8 pm, karaoke 11 pm, live band 10 pm in the Kingsknight **Sat** Karaoke in the Venue 9 pm, live bands 10 pm in the Kingsknight **Sun** NFL football on big screen
LEGENDS PUB *#105, 6101-172 St., 481-2786* — Happy Hour all week, 2-7 pm **Fri** & **Sat** Live entertainment.
MEZZA LUNA *10238-104 St., 423-LUNA* — **Wed** & **Thu** Free Latin dance lessons, 9 - 11 pm **Fri** Advanced salsa lessons **Fri** & **Sat** Orquesta Energia
NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL 6108-90 Ave., 490-1999 — **Fri** & **Sat** DJ EZC
THE NEW RUM *Phase II WEM, 486-9494* — **Thu** Urban Substance **Fri** & **Sat** Top 40 **Sun** Industry Sundays.
OVERTIME BROILER & TAPROOM *10304-111 St., 423-1643* — **Thu** Extreme Thursdays feature cheap drinks & cool music
POWERPLANT *U of A Campus, 492-3101* — **Mon** Universal Music prize giveaways **Fri** Crush On Fridays w DJ Redpoint **Sat** DJs Jesse & Chris, French & Brit pop, mod
PUCKS *11845 Wayne Gretzky Dr S, 471-1231* — **Fri** Top 10, '80s & Rock & Roll, Ladies specials, cool atmosphere, The newest club on the block **Sat** Hockey Night, closest club to the action, big screen TV's, drink specials **Sun** Pool Tournament, opens 2 pm tournament start 3 pm double knockout, cash prizes, drink specials all day
RACK 'EM BILLIARDS URBAN DANCE LOUNGE *10131-97 St 474-7322* — **Fri** & **Sat** house, trance, R&B beats DJ Venus & guests
RATT *7th Floor SUB bldg. U of A Campus* — **Sat** Athletes night w/ DJ Kriegs.
RED'S *WEM, 481-6420* — **Mon** All you can bowl, 9 pm **Tue** Toonie Tuesday **Wed** Casino bowl, cash prizes **Sun** Hypnotist show at 9:30
ROSARIO'S PUB & KARAOKE CENTRAL *11715-108 Ave, 447-4727* — DJ Sociable Dave all week long **Mon** Monday Night Football (NTN & QBI) **Tue** Toonie Tuesdays (9 pm - 2 am) **Wed** & **Thu** Drink specials all night long **Fri** & **Sat** Pool Tournaments on 6 pool tables, foosball **Sun** NFL QB1 all day long.
THE ROXY ON WHYTE *10544-82 Ave, 439-7699* — **Tue** Drink specials **Wed** & **Thu** Wet T-shirt night, drink specials **Fri** & **Sat** R&B Dance Format w/ DJ Extreme **Sun** Drink specials.
RUM *Phase II, WEM, 486-9494* — **Thu** Student night, drink specials **Fri** R&B dance lessons **Sat** Reserve a Table *Sun* Industry night, dodgeball.
RUNWAY NIGHTSPOT *Leduc Inn, 986-4018* — **Wed** — **Sat** DJ Vincenzio
RHYTHM & BREWS *4990-92 Ave.* — **Sat** Classic Rock night
SCOLARS PUB *11113-87 Ave.* — **Mon** Frat night **Wed** Draught special **Sun** Rock trivia.
SCRUFFY MURPHY'S IRISH PUB *Whitemud Crossing, 485-1717* — **Thu** Half-price drinks 9 pm - Midnight **Tue** Industry Night, 25% off your tab **Wed** music trivia. Info. www.scruffymurphyspub.com
SELINA'S *15347 Stony Plain Rd., 481-6444* — Hip hop, reggae, soca, R&B **Wed** Giveaway Wednesday **Fri** Rupie's Sound Explosions **Sat** Dancehall Saturdays.
SMOK'N JOE'S 615 Hermitage Rd, 476-6122 — **Wed** Retro Nite, **Thu** Ladies Nite **Fri** Stop-watch Nite **Sat** Free cash give-a-way, $100 six-times-a-night **Sun** Industry [illegible]
THE STANDARD *6107-104 St., 438-CLUB* — **Wed** XX Ladies night, male dancers, drink specials **Thu** Limited edition, various DJ's & events **Fri** Playboy Fridays. "Girls of Golf" model search **Sat** Live to air w/ Mix 96 Info www.thestandard.ca
STOLLI'S *10368-82 Ave., 437-2293* — **Sun** – **Mon** Drink specials, R & B, top 40, retro, dance
STONEHOUSE PUB *11026 Jasper Ave, 420-0448* — **Fri** & **Sat** DJ Clay
SUITE 69 *8232-103 St, 439-6969* — **Wed** — **Sat** '70s & '80s dance music
TONIC AFTER DARK *9920-62 Ave, 408-2877* — **Fri** Fantasy Fridays, Ladies night **Sat** Uncensored Saturdays w/ Urban Metropolis Sound Crew. Info: www.edmontonnightclubs.com
URBAN LOUNGE *8111-105 St.* — **Tue** Salsa & the City dance lessons at 8 pm
WEISERS LOUNGE *957 Fir St., Sherwood Park, 464-3939* — **Tue** Latin night **Fri** Classic rock **Sat**, 3 pm Live music jam **Thu**, **Fri** & **Sat** DJ Dino, large dance floor, Top 40
WOOLY BULLY'S *8230 Gateway Blvd., 435-2886* — **Mon** – **Sat** Food & drink specials

COUNTRY

COOK COUNTY SALOON *8010-103 St., 432-COOK (2665)* — **Wed** Kickin' karaoke **Thu** Classic country **Fri** & **Sat** DJ Gary Take your chances on the mechanical bull!
COWBOYS COUNTRY SALOON *10180-180 St., 481-8739* — Country/Top 40 Music, dress code in effect, $5 cover charge **Tue** Western Canada's #1 Ladies Night featuring exotic male entertainers, topless waiters, drink specials NC for ladies before 10:30 pm, NC for all restaurant/hospitality staff **Thu** drink specials **Fri** Student/College Night Out, drink specials **Sat** Edmonton's Biggest Weekend Celebration.
DUSTERS PUB *6402-118 Ave.,474-5554* — **Wed** Name That Tune **Fri** & **Sat** Dustkickers
FATBOYZ PUB *6104-104 St., 437-3633* — **Thu** Wing night **Fri** Live entertainment
J.J'S PUB *13160-118 Ave., 451-9180* — **Fri** & **Sat** Live entertainment
LONGRIDERS SALOON 11733-78 St., 479-7400 — Open **Wed** – **Fri** @ 5 pm, **Sat** @ 2 pm
NEW WEST TAVERN *15025-111 Ave., 489-2511* — Country & honky tonk.
RATTLESNAKE SALOON *9261-34 Ave, 438-8878* — **Tue** Free country dance lesson w/ Leon Klatt, happy hour all night **Wed** Happy hour all night **Thu** Free country dance lessons w/ Leon Klatt: **Thu**, **Fri** & **Sat** Ladies night specials, live entertainment Hours: Tue – Sat, 5 – 2 am
WILD WEST SALOON *12912-50 St., 476-3388* — **Wed** Free beginners dance lessons 8 - 9:30 pm **Thu** Free intermediate dance lessons 7:30 - 9:30 pm

OPEN STAGE

THURSDAY

BACKDRAUGHT PUB *8307-99 St, 430-9200* — Open mic at 8 pm, hosted by Leona Burkley.
BACKSTAGE TAP & GRILL *12536-137 Ave., 457-5483* — Open jamat 8 pm, no cover
THE BLIND DUCK *10416-118 Ave., 479-7193* — Open stage hosted by Loren Burnstick, 9:30 pm - close.
DUSTER'S PUB *6402-118 Ave., 474-5554 or 479-0997* — Open stage 9 pm, hosted by Brian Petch
EASTBOUND EATERY *11248-104 Ave.* — Jazz session 8 pm hosted by Blake Kinley
THE GRINDER *10957-124 St., 453-1709* — Open stage, 9 pm, hosted by Rusty Reed
J & R BAR *4003-106 St., 436-4403* — Open Stage 8:30 pm hosted by The Poster Boys
J.J.'S PUB *118 Ave. St. Albert Tr., 489-7462* — Open Stage hosted by Enrique.
JUGS PUB *450 82 Ave 465-4046* — Open mic night
NAKED CYBER CAFE & ESPRESSO BAR *10354 Jasper Ave. 425-9730* — Open stage 8 pm, bring your own instruments, poetry, etc
PLEASANTVIEW HALL *10860-57 Ave.* — Jam session 7 pm hosted by the Wild Rose Old Tyme Fiddlers Association Info 433-2815
SECOND CUP JASPER AVE *10303 Jasper Ave., 424-7468* — Open mic 7:30 - 10:30 pm, hosted by Rob Taylor
SECOND CUP *#105, 50 St. Thomas St., St. Albert 458-3040* — Open stage 7.30 pm, hosted by Ron Taylor
ST. THOMAS COFFEE HOUSE *44 St. Thomas St., St. Albert, 458-8225* — First Thu of every month open stage and jam 7:30 - 10:30 pm hosted by Jim & Penny

FRIDAY

ESPRESSO STATION *4707-49 Ave (across from the 7/11), Stony Plain, 963-6635* — 7 - 10 pm, hosted by Shenta & Karla
GOBBLE GOBBLE *12831 Fort Rd.* — 8 pm – 1 am hosted by Jay
SECOND CUP *8623-112 St., 434-0608* — Open stage 7:30 pm, musicians, magicians, poetry, hosted by Gael Reilly

SATURDAY

BACKSTAGE TAP & GRILL *12536-137 Ave., 457-5483* — Open jam6 –10 pm
BLIND PIG PUB *St. Albert* — 3:30 pm Hosted by the Brothers of Soul
BLUES ON WHYTE *10329-82 Ave., 439-5058* — Blues jam 3 - 8:30 pm
BUDS LOUNGE *St. Albert, 458-3826* — Open jam 7 30 pm
CHIMMY'S *8318-144 Ave. 478-1770* — Open stage jams 3 - 7 pm
JASPER PLACE HOTEL *15303 Stony Plain Rd., 489-1906* — Open Stage, 3 – 6 pm
NEW WEST TAVERN *111 Ave. & 151 St.* — Afternoon jam session at 3 pm
ROSIE'S BAR AND GRILL *10315-124 St., 482-1600* — Open blues & country jam 5:30 - 9:30 pm

SUNDAY

BLIND PIG PUB *St. Albert, 418-6332* — Afternoon jam w/ Carmen
CARGO & JAMES TEA SHOPPE *10634-82 Ave.* — Open Stage 7 – 10 pm hosted by Bob Robichaud
ECCO PUB *9605-68 Ave., 435-5050* — Open Stage w/ The Imaginary Friend Band, 4 - 8 pm (Blues & Roots)
FILTHY MCNASTY'S *10511-82 Ave. (upstairs), 437-7489* — Free jam hosted by Mike Caton, 9 pm
NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL *6108-90 Ave, 490-1999* — Open Stage w/ Willie James & Crawdad, 2:30 – 5:30 pm.
NEW ORLEANZ BLUES & JAZZ *15347 Stony Plain Rd, 484-2602* — Singer/Songwriter open stage, 7 - 9 pm
O'BYRNES IRISH PUB *10616-82 Ave., 414-6766* — Open Stage hosted by Joe Bird, 9 pm
RED STRAP MARKET *10305-97 St., 497-2211* — Drop in venue for musicians, 2 – 4 pm
ROSEBOWL *10111-117 St. 482 2589* — Jam w/ Mike McDonald 9:30 pm.

MONDAY

BLIND PIG PUB *St. Albert, 418-6332* —
LB'S PUB *23 Akins Dr., St. Albert, 460-9100* — 9 pm – 2 am w/ Johnny B.
SIDETRACK CAFE *10333-124 St., 421-1326* — Every Mon, 8:30 pm featuring Ben Spencer NC

TUESDAY

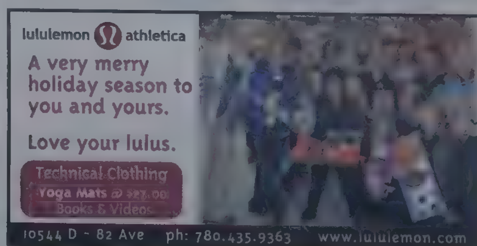
BACKROOM VODKA BAR [illegible] *Ave (upstairs), 436-4418* — Every Tue until Dec 7 poetry open stage 8 pm. "Kill Phil, vol. 2" hosted by the Raving Poets Band. Info www.ravingpoets.com
BLIND PIG PUB *St. Albert, 418-6332* — Evening jam w/ Mark
THE DRUID *11606 Jasper Ave., 454-9928* — Chris Wynters hosts open stage at 9 pm.
LEGENDS PUB *6104-172 St 481-2786* — Open jam night
SECOND CUP *Churchill Square* — 7:30 pm hosted by Ron Taylor
YARDBIRD SUITE *10203-86 Ave., 432-[illegible]* — Jam sessions 9 pm

WEDNESDAY

ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL *7704-104 St., [illegible]* — Open mic 8 pm hosted by Stew
BLIND PIG PUB *St. Albert Tr 432-3606* — Country open stage w/ Randy J Martin & Danita Lynn
BUDS LOUNGE *Granom Plaza St. Albert 458-382[illegible]* — Acoustic jam 8 pm
THE LOCKER ROOM *10209-100 Ave* — Open Stage for comedians & musicians
PLEASANTVIEW HALL *10860-57 Ave* — Bluegrass jam session 7 30 pm hosted by the Northern Bluegrass [illegible] Music Society Info 434-59[illegible]
ROSSDALE COMMUNITY HALL *10135-96 Ave.* — Little [illegible] hosted by Brian Gregg Info 429-[illegible]

HOT SHOWS

CHUBBY CHECKER & THE WILDCATS — **Fri, Jan 21**, Shaw Conference Centre. W/ Herman's Hermits & guests Tickets available from TM
HILLARY DUFF — **Fri Jan 7**, Rexall Place Tickets available from TM
RAIN — **Jan 11 & 12**, 8 pm, Winspear Centre. Beatles Tribute performance Tickets $41 from WIN
SUM 41 — **Mon, Jan 24**, Enmax Centrum, Red Deer Tickets $27 50 from TM



ROYAL CANADIAN BRANCH *10220-156 St* — Open stage jam, 9 pm w/ The Dino Dominelli Hot Five
SECOND CUP AT CALLINGWOOD *6825-177 St., 486-1999* — Open stage hosted by Terry Thrasher & Erroll Zastre 8 pm
VICTORY LOUNGE *10030-102 St* — Jam/open stage guest hosts

KARAOKE

BACKSTAGE TAP & GRILL *12536-137 Ave., 457-5483* — **Tue** Karaoke **Wed** Karaoke contest
BANKERS PUB *16753-100 St* — **Wed**, 9 pm w/ Off-key
B-STREET BAR *11818-111 Ave., 414-0545* — **Wed - Sun** w/ Brad Scott
BILLY BOB'S *Continental Inn, 16625 Stony Pl Rd, 484-7751* — **Fri & Sat**
BILLY BUD'S *9839-63 Ave 438-1148* — **Sat** 8:30 pm Karaoke Idol contest
BLIND PIG *32 St. Anne St 418-6332* — **Mon & Thu**
BLUE QUILL *326 Saddleback Rd. 434-3124* — **Fri & Sat**
BO-DIDDLY'S PUB & GRILL *4274-137 Ave., 476-1918 or 377-0219* — **Thu** w/ Mr Entertainment
BO-DIDDLY'S PUB & GRILL *23 Ave & 66 St., Millwoods Centre* — **Tue**, 9:30 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
BORDERLINE PUB *3226-82 St., 462 1888* — **Thu - Sat**, 9:30 pm – 1:30 am
BOSTON PIZZA BEVERLY *3303-118 Ave.* — **Sat**, 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment
BOSTON PIZZA NAIT *10115 Princess Elizabeth Ave* — **Wed**, 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
BOSTON PIZZA WHYTE *10854-82 Ave., 433-3151* — **Thu** 9 pm
NIKKI DIAMONDS *8130 Gateway Blvd.* —
BROTHERS PUB *101100 Granada Blvd. Shwd Park* — **Sun**, 9:30 pm – 1:30 am w/ Jammin Jamie
BUD'S LOUNGE *Capilano Mall, 98 Ave. & 50 St* — **Fri**, 8 - 11 pm, **Sat** 9 pm – 1:30 am w/ Mr Entertainment
BUD'S LOUNGE *Londonderry 66 St. & 137 Ave.* — **Fri & Sat**, 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
CASSELWOOD PUB *14620 50 St, 473-1010* — **Wed** 9:30 pm – 1:30 am
CHATEAU ON THE HILL Beaumont — **Sat**, 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
CHIMMY'S *8318-144 Ave., 478-1770* — **Thu & Fri**, 9 pm w/ Wild Kenny
CLAREVIEW PUB *104, 550 Clareview Rd, 414-1111* — **Tue**, 10 pm - 2 am w/ Mr Entertainment
CLIFF CLAYVIN'S *9710-105 St., 424-1614* — **Fri & Sat** 10 pm - 2 am
COOK COUNTY SALOON *8010-103 St., 432-COOK* — **Wed** 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment
COSSACK INN *301-1st Ave., Spruce Grove, 962-3844* — **Wed** 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment
CROWN & DERBY *13103 Ft. Rd* — **Fri**, 9:30 pm w/ Mr E[illegible]
DARIEN'S LOUNGE *9945-50 St., 440-5071* — **Fri & Sat**
DOC S LOUNGE *15203 Stony Plain Rd., 486-1100* — **Wed Fri & Sat** 9:30 – 1:30 am
DOYLE'S PUB *2619-151 Ave 473-1961* — **Fri & Sat** 9:30 pm
DRAKE HOTEL *3945-118 Ave., 479-3929* — **Sun**, 8 pm Karaoke Bingo **Mon** 8 pm Karaoke human race
THE DRUID *11606 Jasper Ave* — **Wed**, 9:30 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
DUSTER'S PUB *6402-118 Ave., 474-5554* — **Wed** 9 pm

IS DRINKING A PROBLEM?
A.A. CAN HELP!
424-5900

DRUGS A PROBLEM?
COCAINE ANONYMOUS CAN HELP!
425-2715 • www.ca-northab.org

EARL'S *13330-50 St* — **Sun**, 9 pm w/ Off-Key
FRANCO'S *14059 Victoria Tr, 478-4636* — **Thu - Sat**, Woody's karaoke 9 pm
FINNIGAN'S *13560-Fort Rd* — **Wed** 8:30 pm – 12:30 am w/ Big Time Entertainment
FRANKLIN'S PARK LOUNGE *2016 Sherwood Dr Shwd Park* — **Fri & Sat** 10 pm – 2 am
FUNKY BUDDHA *10341-82 Ave* — **Sun**, 9:30 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
GAS PUMP *10166-114 St., 488-4841* — **Tue & Wed** 9:30 pm
THE GRINDER *10957-124 St., 453-1709* — **Sun** 9 pm w/ Eddie
H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE *10044-82 Ave., 433-5794* — **Tue, Thu Sat & Sun**
HILLVIEW PUB *311 Woodvale Rd W Millwoods 462-0468* — **Fri** 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment
HORSHU LOUNGE *137 Ave & 58 St* — **Mon & Sat**, 10 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
INGLEWOOD PUB *12402-118 Ave., 451-1390* — **Thu - Sat**, 9:30 pm - 2 am w/ Mr Entertainment
JD S POLAR PUB *6825-83 St., 413-1883* — **Thu & Fri** 9 pm
JUGS PUB *7450-82 Ave., 465-4046* — **Sat** 9 pm
KELLY'S *11540 Jasper Ave., 451-8825* — **Sun & Wed**
KINGSKNIGHT PUB *9221-34 Ave., 433-2599* — **Thu - Sat**, Smirking Jay 9 pm
KNIGHTS PUB *11860-145 Ave* — **Tue, Thu - Sat** w/ Mr Entertainment
KOSMOS *5011-50 Ave., Leduc. 986-3122* — **Wed & Sat** 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment
L. B 'S PUB *23 Akins Dr, St. Albert, 460-9100* — **Tue & Thu** 9 pm – 1 am w/ Hot Tunes
LEGENDS PUB *#105, 6104-172 St., 481-2786* — **Wed** 9 pm
LE GLOBE *149 St. & Stony Plain Rd., 489-1022* — **Mon - Thu & Sat**, 9 pm
LOCKER ROOM *10209-100 Ave. 428-6442* — **Mon & Fri**
METRO BILLIARDS *10250-106 St., 990-0704* — **Tue**, 10 pm – 2 am w/ Loung Lizard Ent
MICHAEL'S *11730 Jasper Ave., 482-4767* — **Sun & Mon**, w/ Mr Entertainment
MILTON'S CAFÉ & BAR *10235-124 St., 451-8188* — **Fri, Sat**, Starts at 4 pm
MUGGN'Z PUB *6655-178 St.* — **Wed & Sat**
NEWCASTLE PUB *6108-90 Ave., 490-1999* — **Tue & [illegible]**
NEW ORLEANZ NIGHTCLUB *15347 Stony Pl Rd, 484-2602* — **Tue**
ORLANDO'S I *15163-121 St., 457-1195* — **Sun & Thu** 9 pm - 1 am w/ Off-Key
ORLANDO'S II *13509-127 St., 451-7799* — **Wed & Thu**, 9 pm - 1:30 am w/ Mr Entertainment
OVERLAND LOUNGE *12960 St Albert Tr.* — **Fri** 9 pm – 1 am w/ Big Time Entertainment **Sat** 9 pm – 1 am w/ Off-Key
PEPPERS *Westmount Mall* — **Thu**, 9 pm
RATT *7th floor SUB bldg, U of A campus* — **Wed**, 7 pm w/ DJ Knegs
RATTLESNAKE SALOON *9261 34 Ave, 438-8878* — **Tue & Wed**, 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
RISING SUN CAFÉ & SOBER DANCE CLUB *11311 Kingsway Ave., 479-3775* — **Wed & Thu**, Family karaoke 6 pm – Midnight
ROSARIO S PUB & KARAOKE CENTRAL *11715-108 Ave., 447-4727* — **7 days a week**, 9 pm
ROSE BOWL PIZZA *10111-117 St., 482-5152 or 482-2589* — **Wed & Sat**
ROSIE'S BAR & GRILL *10315-124 St., 482-1600* — **7 days a week** 9:30 pm
ROSIE'S BAR & GRILL *10475-80 Ave., 439-7211* — **Thu - Sat**, 9:30 pm – 1:30 am
ROSIE'S BAR *63 Ave & 99 St* — **Tue - Sat**, 9 pm w/ Off-key
ROSIE'S LOUNGE *96 St & 167 Ave.* — **Tue Fri & Sat**, 9 pm w/ Off-key
ROSIE S LOUNGE *10604-101 St., 423-3499* — **Mon**, 9 pm: Triveoke **Tue - Sat**, 9 pm: Karaoke
RHYTHM & BREWS *4990-92 Ave., 490-5504* — **Fri** 9 pm
SAK S ON 51 ST *10525-51 Ave.* — **Fri & Sat**
SANDS HOTEL *12340 Ft. Rd* — **Fri**, 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
SHERLOCK HOLMES *Bourbon Street WEM* — **Sun**, 9 pm – 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment
SHERLOCK HOLMES *10012-101A Ave.* — **Sun**, 8 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
SILVER MARTINI *10668-156 St., 484-9753* — **Thu & Sat**, 9 pm w/ Lounge Lizard Ent
SMOK'N JOES ROADHOUSE *615 Hermitage Rd., 476-6122* — **Wed** w/ Rockin Kenny
SPIKES RESTAURANT & LOUNGE *99 St. & 32 Ave., 430-3663* — **Fri & Sat** w/ TLC entertainment
SPORTSMANS LOUNGE *145 8107-50 St.* — **Thu**, 9 pm – 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment
STRATHERN PUB *9514-87 St., 465-5478* — **Wed Fri & [illegible]**
THYME TO DINE *15505-118 Ave.* — **Fri & Sat**, 9 pm – 1 am
TODAY'S PUB *5224-86 St* — **Fri & Sat** 9 pm – 1 am w/ Big Time Entertainment
WINSTON'S PUB *9016-132 Ave* — **Wed Fri & Sat**, 9 pm w/ Mr Entertainment
WOODY'S *11725B Jasper Ave (Upstairs) 488-6636* — **Sat - Mon** w/ Randy **Tue & Wed** w/ Tizzy
YESTERDAY'S *Boudreau Rd St. Albert, 459-0295* — **Tue**, 9 pm - 1 am w/ Mr Entertainment

CONCERTS

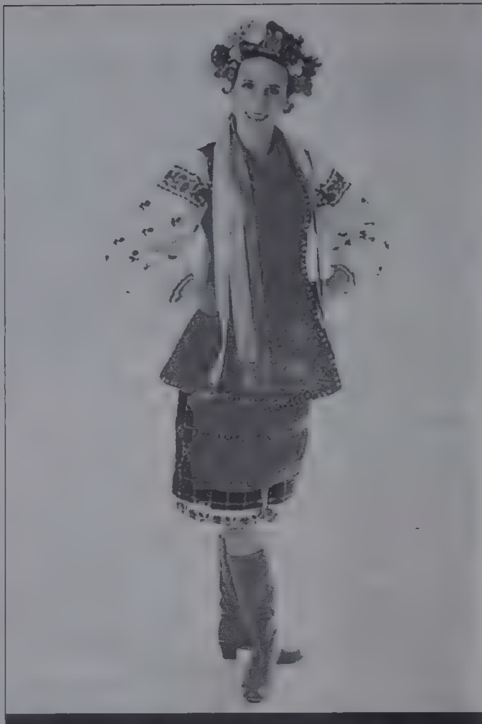
THE FATES — **Sat, Jan 8, 7 pm**, Queen Alexandra Hall (10425 University Ave.) w/ Danielle French Tickets $15 - $17 from TIX
NORTH AMERICA – **Sat Jan 16**, 7:30 pm Festival Place. Pictures, poetry & piano by Ted Harrison, Lister Sinclair & Giona Saarinen. Tickets available from FES
RAIN **Jan 11 & 12** 8 pm Winspear Centre. Beatles Tribute performance. Tickets $41 from WIN
SUM 41 **Mon Jan 24** Enmax Centrium Red Deer
Tickets $27.50 from TM
WEDNESDAYS AT NOON — **Wed, Jan 5**, McDougall United Church (101 St & Jasper Ave.) Nancy Stepney & Judy Loewen Admission free

DANCE

DANCE OF UNIVERSAL PEACE *Riverdale Hall, 9231-100 Ave.* — 2nd & 4th **Mon** of each month, 7:30 pm. Info Call 467-1285
HOURGLASS BALL *Northlands Agricom* — **Fri, Dec 31** 5:30 pm – 2 am. U of A Dance Club New Years Ball Music by Jim Kent, ballroom dance performances, formal event Tickets $60 - $80, call 492-2116
RODA DE CAPOEIRA *Capoeira Academy, 10540 Jasper Ave., 709-3500* — Every **Sat**, 3 – 4 pm. A free performance of a Brazilian mix of dance, martial arts & music invented by African slaves. Info: www capoeiraedmonton ca
UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS *Winspear Centre* — **Sat, Jan 8** 8 pm: Performance feat. the ESO w/ guest conductor Claude Lapalme, Shumka Dancers, Ukrainian Male Chorus, Dnipro Choir, John & Svetlana Sech. Tickets $21 - $36 from WIN

EXHIBITS

AGNES BUGERA GALLERY *12310 Jasper Ave., 482-2854* —
ALBERTA CRAFT COUNCIL *10186-106 St., 488-5900* — **Until Dec 24** Holiday Celebration of Craft Hours Mon – Sat, 10 am - 5:00 pm E-mail: acc@albertacraft.ab ca.
ART BEAT GALLERY *26 St. Anne Street, St Albert 459-3679* — Info: www.artbeat.ab ca
ARTS HABITAT *10217-106 St., 428-2787* — Open house exhibit every **Thu**, 5 – 8 pm Info: www.artshab com
ARTS & SCIENCE BY MARCE & MARCE — Featuring dimensional paintings by Brenda Marce. By appointment. *435-5838*
BANYAN TREE GALLERY *10336-107 St., 425-2727* — Featuring contemporary South Asian artworks, furniture, jewelry and more. Info: info@banyantreegallery.ca
BEARCLAW GALLERY *10403-124 St., 482-1204* — **Until Dec 24**, works by Jane Ash Poitras, Alex Janvier & others Info: info@bearclawgallery com.
CENTRE D'ARTS VISUELS DE L'ALBERTA *9103-95 Ave. 461-3427* — **Jan 5 – Feb 16** Group Show feat. works by Gallery artists
CHACHKAS *8118-100 St., 432-9444* — **Until Dec 31** Paintings by Paul Roche Info: chachkas@telusplanet net
CHRISTL BERGSTROM'S RED GALLERY *9621-82 Ave* — View the web site at www christlbergstrom com Hours Mon — Fri, 11 am - 5 pm; Sat by appointment, 439-8210
COLLECTIV ART & DESIGN SHOP *6507-112 Ave., 491-0002* — Works by Brad Burns, Robert Buttery, Janice Hoekstra & Others Opening reception **Dec 2**, 4 pm Hours: Wed-Fri 12 – 8 pm, Sat 10 am – 6 pm, Sun 12 – 4 pm
CRAFTMAN'S COVE *Westmount Shopping Centre, 454-2656* — Tole Painting and Victorian Music Boxes by Bev Runolfson
DESTINA GALLERY *10727-124 St 488-8720* — Hours Wed – Sat, 11 am – 5 pm
DIXON GALLERIES *10316-124 St.*, — Inuit carving and drawings from Iqaluit traditional Chinese scrolls by Professor Fan Yunan, Kui Liu and Xuelin Lio from China, nine works from Russia, rare etchings by Norval Morrisseau and more Hours Tues - Sat. 10 am - 5 pm, Thu, 9 pm.
DOUGLAS UDELL GALLERY *10332-124 St., 488-4445* —
EDMONTON ART GALLERY *2 Sir Winston Churchill Square, 422-6223* — **Until Mar 27** *Revealing Hidden Treasures*: favourite & rarely seen works from the EAG vaults **Until Feb 6**. *Marc Siegner: Imagining home* **Until Feb 6** *Draw* works by 26 Edmonton artists **Until Jan 16** *Protean Picasso*: Drawings & Prints from the National Gallery of Canada **Until Feb 20**: *Images of Edmonton II*. Hours. Tues, Wed & Fri, 10:30 am — 5 pm; Thu, 10:30 am — 8 pm Sat, Sun & holidays, 11 am — 5 pm. Info: www.edmontonartgallery.com.
ELECTRUM GALLERY *12419 Stony Plain Rd., 482-1402* — **Until Dec 24** 2004 Retrospective show feat. works by numerous gallery artists Hours: Tue – Fri, 10 am - 5 pm, Sat. 10 am – 4 pm.
EXTENSION CENTRE GALLERY *2nd Fl, 8303-112 St., 492-3034* — Hours: 8:30 am – 8 pm, Mon – Fri. 9 am – noon, Sat. Info 492-3034
FAB GALLERY *1-1 Fine Arts Building; U of A Campus* — Hours: Tues – Fri, 10 am – 5 pm; Sat, 2 – 5 pm.



Ukranian Christmas at The Winspear. See Dance.

FORT DOOR *10308-81 Ave., 432-7535* — **Dec**. Carvings by D. Inukpuk, jewellery by J. Sawyer, Baskets by Ojibwa artists. Hours: Mon - Wed, 10 am - 6 pm; Thu & Fri, 10 am - 9 pm, Sat, 10 am - 6 pm; Sun, 12 - 5 pm
FRINGE GALLERY *10516 Whyte Ave., 432-0240* — **Dec**: Paint Spot staff show. Hours. 9:30 am – 6 pm Mon – Sat.
FRONT GALLERY *12312 Jasper Ave., 488-2952* — Hours. Tues – Sat, 10 am – 5 pm.
HARCOURT HOUSE GALLERY *3rd floor, 10215-112 St., 426-4180* — **Jan 6 – Feb 5**. *Sittings*: works by Johnnie Eisen **Front room gallery**: *Seasonings*: Works by Gerald St. Maur Info: harcourt@telusplanet.net or 426-4180.
JOHNSON GALLERY *7711-85 St., 465-6171* — Works by David Nash Jim Painter, Art Pahl, R Jenkins & more. Hours Mon – Fri 9 am – 5:30 pm, Sat 9 am – 5 pm.
LANDO GALLERY *11130-105 Ave., 990-1161* — Mon - Fri, 10 am – 5:30 pm & Sat, 10 am – 4:30 pm, Sun by appointment. Visit www landogallery.com for info.
LATITUDE 53 *10248-106 St., 423-5353* — Info: www.latitude53.org.
MCMULLEN GALLERY *8440-112 St., 407-7152* — **Until Feb 6**: *Transformations. Waves of Fire, Clouds of Snow* Works by Agnieszka Matejko, Adrienne Arlen Duffy & Ryan Dorward. Hours. Mon – Fri, 10 am – 8 pm; Sat & Sun, 1 – 8 pm. Admission: Free.
MODERN EYES GALLERY & GIFT *Downtown (in the same building as Ric's Grill) St. Albert, 459-9102* — Carrying works by painters Graham Flatt, Ian Sheldon, Georgia Graham, Lorraine Oberg; sculptures by Roy Leadbeater, Delayne Corbett, and Fred Oberg; Maggie Walt Jewelry; Antique furniture, Kitras glass, Mogador. Sealed with a Kiss 10% off Open edition framed prints up to 40% off Hours: Tues - Sat, 10 am - 5 pm.
MULTICULTURAL PUBLIC ART GALLERY *5411-51 St., Stony Plain* — **Until Jan 3**: *Paintings in the Festive Trees*: works by Jordanka Yaretz. Hours: Daily, 10 am - 4 pm. Info: 963-2777.
MURUNGO GALLERY *10614-124 St* — Info: www.murungogallery.ca
MUSÉE HÉRITAGE MUSEUM *5 St. Anne St., St. Albert. 459-1528* — **Until Dec 31**. *From Crystals to Gems*. Hours Mon - Sat, 10 am - 5 pm, & Sun, 1 - 5 pm. Admission Suggested donation of $2
NINA HAGGERTY CENTRE *9702-111 Ave., 474-7611* — Info: 474-7611
THE ODYSSIUM *(AKA Edmonton's Space & Science Centre) 11211-142 St., 451-3344* — Permanent Exhibits *The Body Fantastic, Mystery Avenue, The Greens' House Space Place, Discoveryland & DinoDen* in the Explorer Gallery. Syncrude Science Stage: Science Demos – Cryogenics, Electricity, What Puts The Fizz in Soda Pop? Info: 451-3344, www.odyssium.com
ORTONA GALLERY *9722-102 St., 439-6943* — Hours Sat & Sun, 12 – 5 pm.
PICTURE THIS *959 Ordze Rd., Sherwood Park, 467-3038* — Info: www.picturethisgallery.com
P.I.T.S. GALLERY *10340-102 Ave. Lower level* — Hours Tue – Sat 10 am – 5:30 pm.
PROFILES PUBLIC ART GALLERY *19 Perron St., St. Albert, 460-4310* — **Dec**: *Presence* exhibit by the St Albert Paper Arts Guild. Hours: Tue – Sat, 10 am – 5 pm Thu, 10 am – 8 pm.
RED STRAP MARKET *10305-97 St., 497-2211* — Featuring over 70 artists & artisans. Hours: Tue – Sun, 11 am – 5 pm
ROWLES & COMPANY *10130-103 St., 426-4035* — Glass art by Mark Gibeau, Jennifer Jacoby & Darren Petersen. Metal work by Rogelio Menz & Lynn Gratz. Ceramics by Diane Sullivan. Paintings by Audrey Pfanmuller & Elaine Tweedy. Hotel MacDonald: Acrylics by Steve Mitts Scotia Place. Group show. Hours: Weekdays, 9 am - 5 pm; Sat, Noon - 5 pm.

TIX ON THE SQUARE
THIS WEEK:
5th Annual Latin New Years
M&M Sound
December 31
New Year's Eve with the Trocadero Orchestra
Trocadero Orchestra
December 31
de la New
Ensemble de la Rue
December 31
Sample the season with
The Arts District Sampler Pack!
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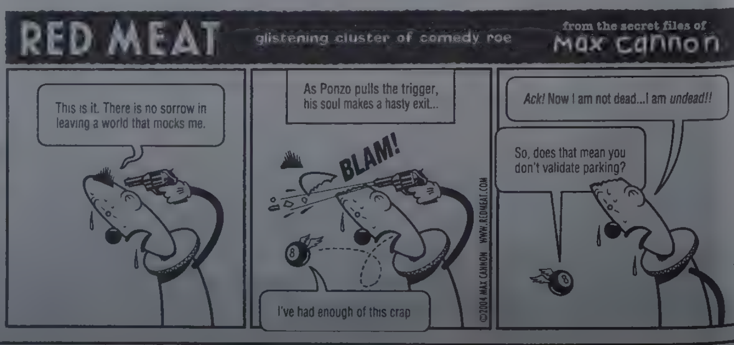


RUCKUS ON WHYTE *10351-82 Ave., 432-0911* — Featuring works by local artists. Hours. Weekdays. 12 – 7 pm, Sat. 12 – 6 pm
SCOTT GALLERY *10411-124 St., 488-3619* — **Until Dec 24** *Christmas Treasures*: works by Terry Ananny Vladmir Horik and others. Hours. Tues - Sat 10 am - 5 pm. E-mail: info@scottgallery or www.scottgallery.com
SEGHERS STUDIO GALLERY *25th Floor, CN Tower* — Featuring works by gallery artists. Hours: Tues, Wed & Thu, 5:30 - 9 pm or by appointment. 425-6885
SERENDIPITY GALLERY *9860-90 Ave., 433-0388* — New oils by Rhonda Harder-Epp, watercolours by Friedrich Pater R.C.A., ceramic masks by Maurice Lwambwa-Tshang, collages by Sylvia Grist and new ceramics by Debra Demers-Bryan
SNAP GALLERY *Society of Northern Alberta Print Artists 10309-97 St., 423-1492* — **Dec 23**: The Shape of Space: works by Barbara Robertson & Print Lab: works by Julie Voyce. Hours: Tues - Sat, Noon - 5 pm. Info: snap@snapartists.com
SNOWBIRD GALLERY *West Edmonton Mall, 444-1024* — Every **Sat**, 1 - 3 pm features an artist painting in the courtyard. Works by Earl Cummins, Kari Duke, Jean Peters, Jim Vest, Ken Brown, Don Sharpe, Yardley Jones and more. Jewelry by Honicka, glass by Lil Cadman, pottery by Nuboro Kubo and Donna Shymko
SPECTRUM ART GALLERY & STUDIO *11745 Jasper Ave. 482-6677* — New location on Jasper Ave presents a variety of artists
STUDIO GALLERY *143 Grandin Park Plaza, St. Albert, 460 5990* — **Until Dec 31**: *A Real World with a Splash of Colour* works by Sharl Honey. Hours: Tues - Fri, 10 am - 5 pm, Sat, 10 am - 4 pm. By appointment: 460-5990
THE VAAA GALLERY *3rd Floor, 10215-112 St., 421-1731* — **Jan 6 – Feb 5.** *East Meets West*: works by Kathleen Newman & Sharon Simonds Chia. Info: visartaa@telusplanet.net
VANDERLEELIE GALLERY *10183-112 St., 452-0286* — **Until Jan 7**: Group show feat. works by David Alexander, Sam Lam, Gregory Hardy, Robert Christie and more. Hours: Tues - Sat, 10 am - 5:30 pm.
WALTERDALE PLAYHOUSE 10322-83 Ave. — Info: 479-[redacted]
WEST END GALLERY *12308 Jasper Ave., 488-4892* —
WILDWOOD GALLERY *5410-50 St. Wildwood, 325-3904* — Features an eclectic collection of unique original works in metal, wood & clay. Hours: 11 am – 5 pm daily.
WINDJAMMER *150 Chippewa Rd, Sherwood Park* — **Dec**: *Split Second*: works by Chloe Findlay.
WORKS GALLERY *10155 Jasper Ave., Main Floor* — Info: 426-2122 or www.theworks.ab.ca
ZIEGLER HUGHES GALLERY & SERENDIPITY FRAMING *9860-90 Ave., 433-0388* — *Anahuacalli Mexican Jewelry and Art* Works by Canadian and Mexican artists and artisans. Hours: Tues & Wed, 10 am - 6 pm; Thu & Fri, 10 am - 8 pm, Sat, Noon - 8 pm; Sun & Mon, Noon - 5 pm
ZOCALO *10826-95 St., 428-0754* — Hours: Mon-Wed, 9 am – 6 pm, Thu – Fri, 9 am – 9 pm, Sun, 12 – 5 pm.

QUEER

INSIDE /OUT *U of A Campus* — A campus-based organization for LGBTQ faculty, graduates, academic & staff. Straight allies are also welcome. Monthly meetings. Contact kwells@ualberta.ca or mwonham@ualberta.ca
PRIDE CENTRE *345, 9912-106 St.* — Free GLBTQ drop in counseling by chartered Psychologist and social workers. Call 488-3234 or visit www.pridecentreofedmonton.org.
TENNIS ANYONE? — Weekly Gay & Lesbian recreational / competitive tennis group. If interested contact Jennifer: 432-2023 or Greg: 919-0192.

THURSDAY

GAYWIRE *CJSR 88.5* — 6 pm: Edmonton's only radio show about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered lives. Featuring news, local and international features and community events.
PRIDE CENTRE WOMEN'S PROGRAMS *345, 9912-106 St.* — Pride Centre counselors and hosts present speakers, discussion topics, activities, movies, all aimed at creating a space for women at the centre.
ILLUSIONS SOCIAL CLUB *#45, 9912-106 St.* — Second Thu of each month. A social/support group for cross-dressers, transsexuals & other transgendered individuals. Info: 964-8399 or illusionsx42@yahoo.com
MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB Recreational and competitive swimming with coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate. Practices every Tue & Thu. Socializing after practice. Info: http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm

SATURDAY

AGAPE *Education faculty, U of A Campus* — Focus group on sex and gender differences in education & culture. Pre-service & practicing teachers, as well as community members welcome. Email andre.grace@ualberta.ca for Agape events schedule
MADELLEINE SANAM FOUNDATION *Faculté Saint-Jean, 8406-91 St Room 3-18* — Every third and fourth Sat of the month, 9 am – 5 pm. An organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African Women through programs on economy, community radio and community health. Offers training on HIV-AIDS prevention, treatment and harm reduction in French, English and other African languages. Admission free for members, membership $10. Call 490-7332 to register
NORTHERN CHAPS *Buddy's Night Club* — Edmonton's original leather-latex-fetish-uniform club meets the first and third Sat of every month. Info: main@northernchaps.com Website: www.northernchaps.com
NORTHERN TITANS GLBT BOWLING LEAGUE *Gateway Lanes & Recreation Centre #100, 3414 Gateway Blvd N* — 7 pm: group supper each week after bowling (optional). Cost is $15 per person. Info: Peter: 483-1075
YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH *#45, 9912-106 St.* — Every Sat 7 - 9 pm: Providing a warm and friendly place where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, straight and questioning youth under the age of 25, can gather together to have fun and learn about themselves and others in a safe, supportive and caring environment. Info: http://members.shaw.ca/yuy

SUNDAY

ALBERTA P-FLAG FAITH SOCIETY *Christ Church, 12116 102 Ave.* — 2 pm: Meets the last Sun of every month. Family and friends from every background, faith and culture are welcome
ARCTIC FRONTRUNNERS — 11 am: A group of gay and lesbian runners meets Sun mornings and hits the river valley trails. Runners of all speeds are welcome. Our runs are typically 7 — 10 km long and take 40 — 60 minutes. Info: 436-7892
LAMBDA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH *Garneau United Church, 11148 84 Ave.* — Lambda provides a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, heterosexual Christians & their friends. All denominations, faiths welcome. Worship at 7 pm, Sun. Info: 887-8611 or lambdachurch@shaw.ca
MEN TALKING WITH PRIDE *45, 9912-106 St.* — A safe supportive & confidential discussion group focusing on all gay related issues. For men at any stage of coming out. Free meeting every Sun, 7 pm. Call: 488-3234 or talkingwithpride@hotmail.com
SOUTHMINSTER-STEINHAUER UNITED CHURCH *10740 19 Ave.* — 10 am: Welcomes people of all sexual orientations. Info: 987-4974
SPIRITUAL LIVING CENTRE — Celebrating and embracing the spiritual magnificence in all. www.spirituallivingcentre.com, 989-3752

MONDAY

BADMINTON LEAGUE The badminton season is now finished but will start up again in Sept. The group still meets on a monthly basis for social/sports. Info: cwbyteddy@shaw.ca or 918-4295

TUESDAY

EDMONTON RAINBOW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION — Join us on the second Tues of every month for drinks, munchies & conversation. For info call 422-6207
FREEDOM METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON *10086 MacDonald Dr* — 7:15 pm. A church for all people. Info: 429-2321.
GET OUT *Pride Centre #45, 9912-106 St.* — Lesbian? Bisexual? Unsure? The Women's Coming Out group can help. Get support, information & meet new people in a safe, confidential environment. Starts **Jan 11**, 7:30 pm. Info: 488-3234 or JoanneMac3@hotmail.com
GROUP MOVIE NIGHT Phone to find out what movie, when to meet and where. Join us for coffee afterwards, too. Cost: Free for 2 members plus theatre costs. Info: 454-0313
MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB Recreational and competitive swimming with coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate. Practices every Tue & Thu. Socialization after practices. Info: http://www.geocities.com/makingwaves_edm.
OUTREACH *Heritage Room, Athabasca Hall, U of A Campus* — 5 pm: U of A based group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight but friendly students, staff and faculty. (Open to the community, not just U of A) Info: www.ualberta.ca/~outreach outreach@ualberta.ca
PFLAG/T *#45, 9912 106 St.* — 7:30 pm: Support meeting every third Tues of the month for parents, families and friends, of lesbians and gays and transgendered people. Info: 462-5958 or 1-877-882-2011 ext. 2043
TRANSSEXUAL/TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP *Garneau United Church meeting room, 11148 84 Ave.* — 7:30 — 9:30 pm: Last Tue of every month: True Spirit North, an education & support group for trans-identified & questioning people. Info: 405-4134 or email truespiritnorth@shaw.ca

WEDNESDAY

BISEXUAL PRIDE *Pride Centre* — 7 pm: A social and support group that meets on the last Wed of every month. Friendly and accepting. Info: 488-3234.
FREE-TO-BE VOLLEYBALL *Oliver School, 10227-118 St.* — Until May, 7:30 pm. Recreational and competitive play for all ages and skill levels. For more info, email Chris Evans, caevans@telusplanet.net
GMOC — Gay Men's Outreach Crew. Every Wed, 7 – 10 pm: Coming-out workshops, self-acceptance, health, call 488-0564 or gmoc@interbaun.com for info
YOURS, MINE, OURS AND US (YMOU) — A support group for LGBT parents, partners and their friends. Meets first and third Wed of the month. Info: 426-6311 or 415-5434

[illegible]

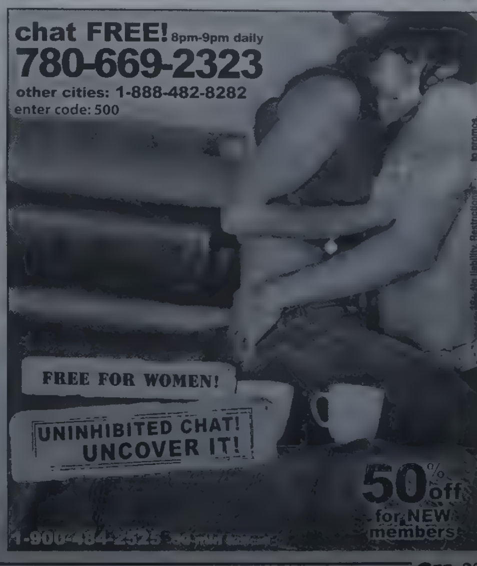
DOWN UNDER *12224 Jasper Ave., 482-7960, www.gayedmonton.com*
STEAMERS *9668 Jasper Ave., 422-2581*

THEATRE

A CHRISTMAS CAROL *Citadel Theatre, 9828-101A Ave.* — **Until Dec 24**, 7:30 pm: The Citadel's Christmas tradition returns with this astounding retelling of Dickens' classic. Tom Wood and Bob Baker have pulled out all the stops to create a spectacle that thrills the senses and dazzles the imaginations of adults and children alike. Tickets $39 - $85 from CiT
DIE-NASTY *Varscona Theatre, 10329-83 Ave.* — **Every Mon** through May 30, 8 pm. The 14th season of Edmonton's live improvised soap-opera is set in the Middle Ages, a time when love was courtly, desire was sinful and hygiene was suspect at best. This year, Die-Nasty gets Medieval. Tickets $7 - $10 at the door. Info: 433-3399 Box #4
THE KING AND I *Festival Place, Sherwood Park, 449-3378* — **Dec 23 & 26 - 28**, Matinees **Dec 26**, 2pm. The King of Siam hires a British governess to educate his many children & concubines. A battle of wits ensues and a deep connection blossoms. Tickets $15 - $20 from FES
ROBIN HOOD, MEN WITH SWORDS *Celebrations 13103 Fort Rd* — **Until Feb 5**. Join Robin Hood and his band of merry men as they make history in the magical setting of Sherwood Forest. Tickets $20 - $43.95, call 488-9339

MEETINGS

ADHD SUPPORT *Glenrose Hospital, 10230-111 Ave.* — Every first & third **Tue**, TADA/CH.A.D.D. hosts an adult support meeting for attentional disorders. Info: 406-5212
TOASTMASTERS *Kings College, 9125-50 St.* — Public speaking group meets every **Tue**, 7:30 pm. Info: 438-8362
CRANKPOTS *Crankpots ceramic studio 10702-82 Ave., 414-1005* — "Happy Hour" free painting workshops **Mon – Thu**, 10 am – 2 pm.
CSS WORKSHOPS *Catholic Social Services offices* — Catholic Social Services Edmonton offers several family health and wellness workshops from **Aug – Dec**. Call 420-6081 for info & registration
FAVA WORKSHOP *Ortona Armoury, 9722-102 St., 429-1671* — **Every Mon**, 7 - 10 pm. Monday Night Club screenwriters, directors & actors workshop a scene for camera. Call 429-1671 or visit FAVA.ca
OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED NETWORKING GROUP *Edmonton Chamber of Commerce #600 10123-99 St* — **Every Fri**, 6:45 - 8:30 am: Develop new business relationships and hear keynote speaker Terry [illegible]. Admission $2, everyone welcome. Info: 426-4620
THE OUTSIDERS SUPPORT GROUP — **Every Wed**, 7 - 8:30 pm. A support group for families and friends of loved ones who are incarcerated or on parole. Providing emotional support, info and a place to share. Info: 471-1122
PARAGON TOASTMASTERS CLUB — **Every Thu**, noon - 1 pm. Improve your listening, thinking & speaking skills. Dowtown location. Info: 431-2345 or 427-0552
SCREENWRITERS CIRCLE *Fava Site, 429-1671* — First **Tue** of every month, 7:30 pm. Established & budding screenwriters discuss craft & share works-in-progress. Call 429-1671 or visit FAVA.ca
UPWARD BOUND TOASTMASTERS *10025-106 St. 10th floor* — Every **Wed**, 7 pm. Improve your public speaking skills. Info: 477-2613 www.ecn.ab.ca
WEST END TOASTMASTER CLUB "COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP" *10451-170 St., 2nd Floor Boardroom* — **Every Tue**, 7 - 9 pm. Communication involves listening skills, giving appropriate feedback and public speaking. Join the friendly environment of personal progress and mutual support during two-hour weekly meetings. Info



973-4011 ext 4672
YOUNG ADULTS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP *Knox Metropolitan United Church 8307-109 St* — Every third **Thu** of the month the Edmonton Chapter of the MS Society is offering a support group for people in their 20s and 30s who have MS and for their family & friends. Info: 471 3034
YOUTH ANTI-RACISM PROJECT *U of A Education North 4-104* — A social justice group that presents anti-racism workshops to various audiences. Free meeting every **Tue** 6 pm

EVENTS

CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS *Fort Edmonton Park* — **Until Dec 23**, 6 – 10 pm Horse-drawn sleigh rides through the park. Family oriented evening feat caroling, baking, tree trimming & more. Tickets $10 - $15. call 496-2925
LATIN NEW YEARS *Delta Edm South 4404 Gateway Blvd.* — **Fri, Dec 31**, 7:30 pm Dinner party, live music Latin dance party favours & more Tickets $30 - $40 from TIX

MUSEUMS

ALBERTA AVIATION MUSEUM *11410-Kingsway Ave 451-1175* — Display of Edmonton's bush pilots W W II double-wide, double-long hangar Hours Daily, 10 am - 4 pm
CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES *10440-108 Ave., 496-8710* — More than 50,000 catalogued photographs and slides from the 1880s to the present. Two display galleries. Free admission Hours. Weekdays, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
JOHN WALTER MUSEUM *496-8787* — Admission is free donations gladly accepted Info www.edmonton.ca/johnwalter
LOYAL EDMONTON REGIMENT MILITARY MUSEUM *118, Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre, 10440 108 Ave.* — Current exhibition: *The Battle of Ortona, Dec 1943* Displaying artifacts, photographs, documents, and texts on one of Canada's most important battles of World War II Hours Weekdays, 10 am - 4 pm
PROVINCIAL MUSEUM OF ALBERTA *12845-102 Ave., 453-9100* — **Until Mar 29**, 2005: *Big Things 3* Abstract sculptures on the front terrace. **Wild Alberta** Urban ecology scavengers **Permanent Exhibitions:** *The Syncrude Gallery of Aboriginal Culture* traces the extraordinary history of Alberta's Aboriginal peoples from the end of the Ice Age to the present day. *The Bug Room* examine giant walking sticks, crawling cockroaches stinging scorpions and tarantulas the size of dinner plates—live and up close! *The Natural History Gallery* explore some of the extraordinary changes the Alberta region has experienced and see how these changes were written in the rocks Info: 459-9100 Hours: Mon – Sun, 9 am - 5 pm. Ticket prices & Info www.pma.edmonton.ab.ca

ALT CINEMA

THE ODYSSIUM *(AKA Edmonton's Space & Science Centre) 11211-142 St 451-3344* — Imax Theatre *Forces of Nature* Takes you as close as you dare to some of earth's most violent natural disasters. from earthquakes to volcanoes & tornadoes *Top Speed* Using a combination of innovative LF cinematography special effects and computer-animated imagery, *Top Speed* is a dynamic montage of awe-inspiring individual performances and new technologies that graphically illustrate the science of speed. *Shackleton's Antarctic Adventure* Tells the story of polar explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton's now legendary 1914 - 1916 British Imperial Trans-Atlantic Expedition. *Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees, Bears, The Human Body, Amazon, Storm Chasers, Beavers & Magic of Flight,* Margaret Zeidler Star Theatre: *Climate Change Dance of Light, Alberta Skies II, Laser Colours of the World, In My Backyard, Star Wonders, Sky Science & Laser Rock.* Info & showtimes: 451-3344, www.odyssium.com

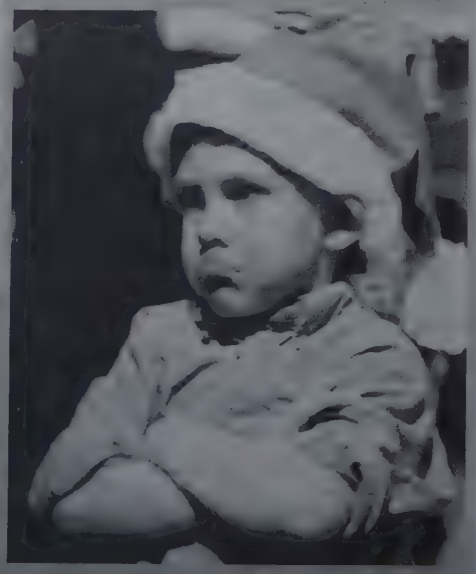
KIDS

ADVENTURE SUNDAYS *John Janzen Nature Centre, Fox Dr. & Whitemud Dr.* — Every **Sun**, 11 am – 4 pm: join a naturalist and explore a new theme with your family. Each weekend features hands-on activities and projects for the whole family Admission: $1.75 adults, $1.50 youth/seniors, $1.25 children. Info. 496-8787 or www.edmonton.ca/johnjanzen
ARMY CADET RECRUITMENT *Progressive Academy, 13212-106 Ave* — Every **Wed**, 6:30 - 9 pm: Free sports, activities, camping, rifling, wall climbing and orienteering For more information call Doug: 483-7985 or Jason 473-4500
ART-VENTURES *Profiles Public Art Gallery, 19 Perron St, St Albert, 460-4310* — Every third **Sat**, 1 - 4 pm. Drop-in to the gallery and discover how much fun art can be. Children, ages 5 - 12. Suggested donation per child is $2 Parents are required to stay with their children.
CAPOEIRA KIDS CLASSES *10540 Jasper Ave., 709-3500* — Every **Tue & Thu**, 4:30 – 5:30 pm, **Sat**, 1 – 2 pm Capoeira is a Brazilian mix of dance, martial arts & percussion. Info. www.capoeiraedmonton.ca
JACK FROST POPCORN SERIES *John Janzen Nature Centre Fox Dr. & Whitemud Dr.* — **Dec 29 – 31** Animal crafts, stories, snowshoeing & movies New featured animal each day Admission: $1.25 - $1.75 Info 496-8787 or www.edmonton.ca/johnjanzen
KIDS KARATE *Grandin School, 9864-110 St.* — Every **Tue & Fri**, 6:30 – 8:30 pm Classes for kids aged 10 & up Starts **Jan 4** Info 975-6910 or 460-2931.
KOZMANIA *Red Strap Market, 10305-97 St.* — Every **Sat** 1 pm Build you own spaceship or robot Free metal workshop for kids. Info: 497-2211
SNAPPY SATURDAY *SNAP Gallery 10137-104 St., 423-1492* — Last **Sat** of each month children and their families are invited to join in various projects and artistic crafts Program designed for children ages 4 – 12.
"START" PARENT & PRESCHOOL PROGRAM *Profiles Public Art Gallery, 19 Perron St. St Albert* — Every **Tues & Thu**, 1:30 - 2:30 pm: An interactive program, which offers children ages 2 - 5 and their parents/caregivers fun opportunities to explore art and elements of art for learning and skill development. $5 per child (caregivers free) To pre-register call 460-4310.
YOUTH DROP-IN CENTRE *Castle Downs YMCA, 11510-153 Ave, 476-9622* — Every **Fri**, 7 – 10 pm: Basketball, air hockey, foosball, swimming & open gym. Call Trent, 476-9622 for info
YOUTH VENTURES *Profiles Gallery, St. Albert* — **Tue – Thu**, 1 – 5 pm: Zine drop-in: learn about this alternative to mainstream press. Youth ages 15 – 18 invited to attend Every **Sat**: Come share your view, make cool art & get creative. Every weekend, Profiles offers unique art projects for teens. Info: 460-4310.

HEALTH/ WELLNESS

CLUB LULU — Every **Mon**, meet at Lululemon (10544 – 82 Ave.) for a variety of activity workshops, from running to rock climbing. Call 435-3363 or clubululemon@hotmail.com to register.
CSS WORKSHOPS *Catholic Social Services offices* — Catholic Social Services Edmonton offers several family health and wellness workshops from **Aug – Dec**. Call 420-6081 for info & registration.
MADELLEINE SANAM FOUNDATION *Faculté Saint-Jean 8406-91 St Room 3-18* — Every third and fourth **Sat** of the month, 9 am – 5 pm: An organization for the emancipation and autonomy of African Women through programs on economy, community radio and community health. Offers training on HIV-AIDS prevention, treatment and harm reduction in French, English and other African languages Admission free for members, membership $10 Call 490-7332 to register.
OOH LE LA PILATES — **Every Mon**, 9 – 10 am & **Thu**, 6 – 7 pm: C'est Sera (12818-52 St.) presents a free Pilates workshop To register call 991-8634
ORGANIC ROOTS WORKSHOPS — All events take place at Organic Roots (8225-112 St.) Info: 413-1790.
THE OUTSIDERS SUPPORT GROUP — **Every Wed**, 7 - 8:30 pm: A support group for families and friends of loved ones who are incarcerated or on parole Providing emo-

FREE STUFF



NO FREE STUFF

Flying grumpily in the face of Christmas spirit, The Free Stuff contests will be cancelled for two weeks, so that the Free Stuff Grinch can sit at home on his couch with his good friend John Daniels. Regular contests will resume on January 6th, 2005.

tional support, info and a place to share Info: 471-1122

YOUNG ADULTS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP *Knox Metropolitan United Church, 8307-109 St* — Every third **Thu** of the month the Edmonton Chapter of the MS Society is offering a support group for people in their 20s and 30s who have MS and for their family & friends Info: 471-3034.

ACTIVISM

ANARCHIST READING CIRCLE DISCUSSION GROUP *Fine Arts Building, lounge at bottom of stairway, U of A Campus, 114 St. & 89 Ave.* — Every **Sun**, 4 pm: Meet for critical discussion of assigned anarchist readings, the theory and practice of anarchism and current international and local events Current readings available at: www oxygensmith com/~arc.

COUNCIL OF CANADIANS *Sacred Heart School, 9624-108 Ave.* — An independent, public interest organization that works to promote economic justice, renew democracy and assert Canadian Sovereignty Info: 429-4500

ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECT ACTION NETWORK *#7, 6328A-104 St.* — Environmental activist and public education group Weekly meetings every **Thu**, 6:30 pm Special monthly meeting every third **Thu**, 6 30 pm at Organic Roots (8225-122 St) Admission free All are welcome. Info: 440-0542

EDMONTON SMALL PRESS ASSOCIATION — ESPA is an activist org with members from 28 countries Always seeking socially conscious artists, administrators, and volunteers Meetings every third **Wed** at 7 pm. Info: 424-9236 or espa2002@shaw ca

UNIVERSITY COALITION AGAINST WAR & RACISM *Humanities Centre, Rm 1-7, U of A Campus* — A public interest group working in education and organizing invites concerned public to attend coalition meetings every **Thu**, 4:30 - 6 pm

WOMEN IN BLACK *Strathcona Farmer's Market, 83 Ave. & 103 St.* — First & third **Sat** of every month 10 - 11 am: An international women's peace & anti racism group formed by Jewish & Arab women in 1988 opposes violence in all its forms All women, men & children invited to attend a silent vigil Info 435-7051

WOMENS LEAGUE *Organic Roots, 8225-112 St.* — The Women's International League for Peace & Freedom meets the first **Wed** of every month at 7 pm. All women are welcome. Info: 447-9060

YOUTH ANTI RACISM PROJECT *U of A, Education North 4-104* — Every **Tue**, 6 pm Social justice group that presents anti-racism workshops to various audiences Admission free Info 425-4644

Come to
GRANDIN THEATRES
2 Movie Tickets, Double Popcorn, and Drink Combo
$17.00
Until Dec 31/04
One Ad Coupon/Person/Day
Grandin Mall Sir Winston Churchill Ave St. Albert 458 9822

SILVERCITY
FAMOUS PLAYERS IMAX THEATRE
West Edmonton Mall
©IMAX CORPORATION

SHOWTIMES DECEMBER 24-30, 2004

GARNEAU
8712 109 STREET • 433-0728

KINSEY 18A
Nightly 7:00 & 9:20; Sat & Sun matinees 2:00 Sexual content
Closed Dec. 24-25 .. Seasons Greetings from Management & Staff

PRINCESS
10337 - 82 AVENUE • 433-0728

THE AVIATOR PG
Nightly 6.45 & 9:30, Sun. matinees 2.00
Mature content, not recommended for young children.
Closed Dec. 24-25 .. Seasons Greetings from Management & Staff

THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU 14A
Nightly 7:00 & 9:15, Sun. matinees 2:30 Coarse language throughout
Closed Dec. 24-25 ... Seasons Greetings from Management & Staff

MAGIC LANTERN CINEMA
205 Main Street, Spruce Grove • 962-2332

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Nightly 7:00 & 9:15, matinees Dec. 26, 28 & 30 at 1:15 & 3:15
The theatre will be closed Dec. 24 & 25

METRO CINEMA
9828-101A AVENUE (ZEIDLER HALL, CITADEL THEATRE) • 425-9212
CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

GRANDIN THEATRES
GRANDIN MALL, SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL AVE., ST. ALBERT • 458-9822

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Daily 12 45 2 55 5 10, 7 20, 9 30 Coarse language , violence

BLADE TRINITY [illegible]
Daily 12 30, 3 00, 5 15, 7 30, 9 40

SPANGLISH PG
Daily 2:00, 4 30, 7.00, 9:25. Coarse language, mature themes

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS PG
Daily 12:00

[illegible] PG
Daily 2:15, 4.40, 7:10, 9.35. Coarse language

[illegible] G
Daily 12 10

[illegible] PG
Daily 12.40, 2 45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:20.

MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Daily 12 [illegible] 5 15 7 30 9 40 Crude content sexual language

LEDUC CINEMAS
4702-50 St Leduc • 986-2728
Daily matinees start Dec. 23/04 until Jan. 9/05

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Nightly 7:00 & 9:20; Sat & Sun matinees 1:15, 3:35.

SPANGLISH PG
Nightly 6 50 & 9:30; Sat & Sun matinees 1:10, 3:40.

MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Nightly 7:05, 9:25; Sat & Sun matinees 1:05, 3.25.

POLAR EXPRESS G
Sat & Sun matinee 1 00

OCEANS TWELVE PG
Nightly 7 10, 9:30; Sat & Sun matinees 3:40. Coarse language.

CINEMAPLUS
#490 140 St. Albert Road, St. Albert • 460-1646

THE NOTEBOOK PG
Fri-Thurs 6:45, 9:10; Sat Sun matinees 12:50, 3:20. Suggestive scenes.

SAW R
Daily 9:05, Sat Sun matinees 3:40. Disturbing content.

SEED OF CHUCKY 18A
Fri-Thurs 6:50; Sat Sun matinees 1.30. Gory scenes.

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW PG
Fri-Thurs 7.20, 9:35; Sat Sun matinees 1:40, 3:45.

I HEART HUCKABEES 14A
Daily 7:10, 9 40; Sat Sun matinees 1 10, 3:50 Coarse language

NAPOLEON DYNAMITE G
Daily 6 25 8 40; Sat Sun matinees 12:15, 2:15, 4:15.

SHARK TALE G
Daily 6 30 8 45 Sat Sun matinees 12:00, 2 00, 4.00

TEAM AMERICA: WORLD POLICE 18A
Fri-Thurs 7 00 9 15 Sat Sun matinees 12 30, 3 00
Crude sexual language not recommended for children

TAXI PG
Daily 6 20 9 30 Sat Sun matinees 1 00 3 30 Violence

CINEPLEX ODEON
444-5468 CINEMAGUIDE

NORTH EDMONTON CINEMAS
14231 137th Avenue • 732-2223

MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Fri 12 30, 1 40 3 30, 4 30, 6 40 7 40 Sat 3 30, 4 30 6 40, 7 40, 9 30 10:20 Sun-Thurs 12 30, 1 40 3 30 4 30, 6 40, 7 40 9 30 10 20 Crude content sexual language. No passes

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Fri 12:40, 3:20, 7 20, Sat 3 20, 7:20, 10:00; Sun-Thurs 12:40, 3:20, 7:20, 10:00. Coarse language, violence

LEMONY SNICKET'S: A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Fri 1.30, 4.10, 6:50; Sat 4:10, 6:50, 9:20; Sun-Thurs 1:30, 4:10, 6.50, 9 20

SPANGLISH PG
Fri 12:15, 3:10, 6:45, Sat 3 10, 6:45, 9:40, Sun-Thurs 12:15, 3 10, 6:45, 9:40 Coarse language, mature theme

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
Fri 12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:00, 7.00, 7 30; Sat 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; Sun-Thurs 1 00, 4:00, 7.00, 9:50. Coarse language No passes

BLADE: TRINITY 18A
Fri 2:00, 4:50, 7:45, Sat 4:50, 7.45, 10:30, Sun-Thurs 2:00, 4:50, 7 45, 10 30

CLOSER [illegible]
Fri 2 10, 5:00, 7 50, Sat-Thurs 7.50, 10:10
Crude sexual language

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS PG
Fri 1:50, 4:40, 7:05, Sat 4.40; Sun-Thurs 1 50, 4 40

FINDING NEVERLAND G
Fri 12:10, 2:40, 5.10, 7.35, Sat 5.10, Sun-Thurs 12 10, 2.40, 5 10

NATIONAL TREASURE PG
Fri 1:20, 4 20, 7 15, Sat-Thurs 7:15, 10:05

THE POLAR EXPRESS G
Fri, Sun-Thurs 1.10, 3:40, 6:30; Sat 3:40, 6:30

THE INCREDIBLES PG
Fri 12:50, 4:15, 7.10; Sat 4 15, Sun-Thurs 12:50, 4.15

[illegible] 14A
Sat-Thurs 7:55, 10:15 Frightening scenes

THE AVIATOR PG
Sat 3 50, 7 35, 9:00; Sun-Thurs 12 20, 3.50, 7 35, 9:00
Coarse language. No passes

FAT ALBERT G
Sat 5:00, 7.30, 9 45, Sun-Thurs 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7.30, 9:45

THE LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU 14A
Sat 4:20, 7:10, 9:55; Sun-Thurs 1 20, 4.20, 7:10, 9:55
Coarse language throughout

CITY CENTRE CINEMAS
3RD FLOOR PHASE II, 101 st. & 102 AVE • 421-7020

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG
Fri 12:00, 3:10, 6:30; Sat 3:10, 6 30, 9.55; Sun-Thurs 12:00, 3:10, 6:30, 9 50. May frighten young children. No passes

MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Fri 1.10, 4:10, 7:00; Sat 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; Sun-Thurs 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9.45. Crude content, sexual language No passes

SPANGLISH PG
Fri 12:50, 3:50, 6.50; Sat 3:50, 6:50, 9:45, Sun-Thurs 12 50, 3.50, 6 50, 9:50. Coarse language, mature theme

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Fri 12.10, 3:00, 7.30; Sat 3:00, 7:30, 10:10; Sun-Thurs 12.10, 3:00, 7:30, 10:10. Coarse language, violence

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
Fri 12:40, 4:00, 7:10; Sat 4:00, 7:10, 10:05, Sun-Thurs 12:40, 4:00, 7 10, 10:05. Coarse language. No passes

SIDEWAYS 18A
Fri 12:20, 3:20, 7 20, Sat 3:20, 7:20, 10:15; Sun-Thurs 12:20, 3:20, 7:20, 10:15. Sexual content

BLADE TRINITY 18A
Fri 1:20, 4:20, 7:40; Sat 4 20, 7:40, 10:25, Sun-Thurs 1:20, 4:20, 7:40, 10:25

CLOSER 18A
Fri 1:00, 3:30, 7.50; Sat 3.30, 7:50, 10:20; Sun-Thurs 1:00, 3:30, 7:50, 10:20. Crude sexual language

A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT 18A
Fri 12:30, 3:40, 6:40; Sat 3.40, 6:40, 9:35, Sun-Thurs 12:30, 3:40, 6 40, 9.35 War violence, sexual content

NEW WEST MALL 8
WEST EDMONTON MALL, PHASE III ENTRANCE 2 • 444-1829
BOX OFFICE OPENS NIGHTLY 6:15 • OPEN MATINEES SAT/SUN 1 30

BRIDGET JONES: THE EDGE OF REASON 14A
Fri 1:50, 4:30; Sat 4:30, 7:10, 9:25, Sun-Thurs 1:50, 4:30, 7.10, 9:25
Coarse language

LADDER 49 PG
Fri 1.45, 4 20; Sat 4:20, 7:00, 9:30; Sun-Thurs 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:30
[illegible]

RAY PG
Fri 2 40, Sat 7 40, Sun-Thurs 2 40, 7 40 Substance abuse not recommended for young children

ALFIE 14A
Fri 1 40 Sat 7 20 Sun-Thurs 1 40, 7 20

TEAM AMERICA: WORLD POLICE 18A
Fri 4 10 Sat 9 40 Sun-Thurs 4 10 9 40
Crude sexual language not recommended for children

NAPOLEON DYNAMITE G
Fri 2 10 4 25 Sat 4 25 7 05, 9 10 Sun-Thurs 2 10, 4 25, 7 05 9 10

SHARK TALE G
Fri 2:20 4 40 Sat 4 40, 6 40, 8 50, Sun-Thurs 2 20 4 40, 6 40, 8 50

WITHOUT A PADDLE 14A
Fri 2:00, 4:00, Sat 4:00, 6 30, 9 00, Sun-Thurs 2:00, 4 00, 6:30 9:00

THE NOTEBOOK PG
Fri 1.30, 4:15, Sat 4:15, 6.50, 9 20, Sun-Thurs 1:30, 4 15, 6:50, 9:20
Suggestive scenes

CLAREVIEW TOWN CENTRE
4211 - 137 AVENUE • 472-7600

[illegible] [illegible]
Fri 1.40, 4:50, 7 35, Sat 4 50, 7:35, 10.10, Sun-Thurs 1:40, 4 50 7:35, 10:10 Crude content, sexual language No passes

SPANGLISH PG
Fri 1 20, 4 10, 7.00; Sat 4:10, 7:00, 9:50; Sun-Thurs 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9 50. Coarse language, mature theme

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Fri 1 50, 4:30, 7 30, Sat 4:20, 7.30, 10:05; Sun-Thurs 1:50, 4 20 7 30, 10:05. Coarse language, violence

LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Fri 12:40, 3:30, 7 10, Sat 3.30, 7.10, 9 40, Sun-Thurs 12:40, 3 30, 7 10, 9 40

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
Fri 1 00, 1 30, 3:40, 4.20, 6:30, 7:20; Sat 3:40, 6:30, 9:15; Sun-Thurs 1:00, 3 40, 6.30, 9 15 Coarse language No passes

[illegible] 18A
Fri 4:40, 7 40; Sat 7 40, 10:15, Sun-Thurs 4 40, 7:40, 10:15

NATIONAL TREASURE PG
Fri 12:50, 3:50, 6 50; Sat-Thurs 9 20

THE POLAR EXPRESS G
Fri 12:30, 3 20, 6:40; Sat 3.50, 6:50; Sun-Thurs 12.50, 3.50, 6:50

[illegible] G
Fri 1:10, 4:00, 6:45

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS PG
Fri, Sun-Thurs 2:00, Sat 4:40

[illegible] 14A
Sat 4 00, 6.45, 9:00, Sun-Thurs 1.10, 4:00, 6.45, 9 00
Frightening scenes

THE AVIATOR PG
Sat 5:10, 8:30, Sun-Thurs 1.30, 5.10, 8.30 No passes

[illegible] G
Sat 5:00, 7 20, 9.30; Sun-Thurs 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7.20, 9:30

FAMOUS PLAYERS

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CALGARY TRAIL & 23RD AVENUE • 436-8585

HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS Sub-titled [illegible]
Fri 12:50, 3:40, 6.30; Sat-Thurs 12:50, 3.40, 6:30, 9.15

MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Fri 12:10, 1:10, 2:45, 4:00, 5:20, 7:00, 8:00; Sat-Thurs 12.10, 1:10, 2:45, 4:00, 5:20, 7:00, 8.00, 9:45, 10:45
Crude content, sexual language No passes

THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG
Fri 12.15, 2:10, 3:30, 5.30, 6:45, Sat-Thurs 12:15, 2:10, 3:30, 5:30, 6:45, 8 45, 9:50. May frighten young children. No passes

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Fri 1:40, 4:40, 7:45, Sat-Thurs 1:40, 4:40, 7:45, 10:30
Coarse language, violence

[illegible] PG
Fri 1:20, 4:15, 7:15, Sat-Thurs 1:20, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15
Coarse language, mature theme

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
Fri 12:30, 2:15, 3:20, 5:15, 6 30; Sat-Thurs 12:30, 3.20, 6.30, 9.30, 10:20 Coarse language. No passes

[illegible] 18A
Fri 2:00, 4:50, 5:50, 7 50; Sat-Thurs 2:00, 4:50, 7:50, 10:40

[illegible] 18A
Fri 1 30, 4:10, 6:50; Sat-Thurs 1:30, 4 10, 6:50, 9.20, 10:15
Crude sexual language

[illegible] PG
Fri-Thurs 1:50, 4:20, 7:20

NATIONAL TREASURE PG
Fri 1:00, 3:50, 7:10; Sat-Thurs 1:00, 3:50, 7:10, 10:10

THE POLAR EXPRESS G
Fri 12:20, 1:15, 2:40, 3:45, 5:10, 7:40; Sat-Thurs 12:20, 2:40, 5.10, 7:40

THE INCREDIBLES G
Fri 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7.30; Sat-Thurs 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

[illegible] G
Sat-Thurs 12:00, 2:20, 4 30, 6 40, 9:00

DARKNESS 14A
Sat-Thurs 12 40, 3 00 5 40 8 [illegible] 0 45 Frightening scenes

SILVERCITY
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MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Fri 1 15 4 15 7 35 Sat Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 1 15, 4 [illegible] 7 35 10 30 Crude content sexual language No passes

LEMONY SNICKET'S: A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Fri 11 40, 1 00, 2.15 4:00 4.55 7:00, 7 40 Sat Sun Mon Tues Thurs 11:40, 1:00, 2 15, 4:00, 4 55, 7:00, 7:40 9:50 10:25 Wed 11 40 1:00, 2.15, 4:00, 4:55, 7 40, 9:50, 10:25

SPANGLISH PG
Fri 12:05, 2:50, 6:50; Sat Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 12:05, 2:50 6 50 9:55 Coarse language, mature theme

THE INCREDIBLES G
Fri 11 30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30; Sat Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 12:40, 6 45

CHRISTMAS WITH THE KRANKS PG
Fri 11 35, 2:05, 4.35, 7.10; Sat Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 11 35, 2:05 4 35

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG
Fri 11 55, 3:05, 6 40, Sat Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 11 55 3:05 6 40 10:05 May frighten young children No passes

THE AVIATOR PG
Sat Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 12 45, 4 25, 8 00
Mature content, not recommended for young children

THE POLAR EXPRESS G
Fri 12.00, 2 20, 4 45, 7.15, Sat Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 12:00, 2 20, 4:45, 7:15, 9:40

LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU 14A
Sat 11:35, 2:10, 4:50, 7 30, 10.10, Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 11 30, 2 10, 4 50, 7.30, 10:10 Coarse language throughout

OCEAN'S TWELVE PG
Fri 12.00, 3:00, 6:30, Sat Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 12.00, 3:00, 6:30, 9 30 Coarse language

[illegible] PG
Fri 11 30, 3.45, 7 25, Sat Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 3.45, 9 25

BLADE III: TRINITY 18A
Fri 12:30, 3:30, 6 55, Sat Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 6.55, 9 45

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Fri 12:15, 3:15, 7 15; Sat Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 12:15 3:15 7 15 10:00 Coarse language, violence

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LEMONY SNICKET'S: A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Fri 12:45, 1:15, 3:45, 4:15, 6:50, 7 20, Sat 3 45, 4:15, 6.50, 7 20, 9:30, 10:00, Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 12:45, 1:15, 3 45, 4 15, 6.50, 7 20, 9.30, 10:00

THE SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS MOVIE G
Fri 12:30, 1:10, 2:30, 3 30, 4 40, 6.45, 7:25, Sat 4 40, 6:45, Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 12 30, 2.30, 4 40, 6.45

THE AVIATOR PG
Sat 4 00, 4:30, 7 45, 8.45, Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 12 15, 12 50, 4.00, 4.30, 7:45, 8:45. Mature content, not recommended for young children

THE GRUDGE 14A
Fri 1:20, 4:20, 7.15; Sat 4.05, 6.30; Sun 1 30, Mon Tues Wed Thurs 1.30, 4:05, 6:30 Frightening scenes

FINDING NEVERLAND G
Fri 1:00, 4:10, 7 10, Sat 4:10, 7.10, 9:50; Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 1 20, 4.10, 7:10, 9:50

LIFE AQUATIC WITH STEVE ZISSOU 14A
Sat 3:50, 7:15, 9:55, Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 1.10, 3:50, 7:15, 9:55
Coarse language throughout

ALEXANDER [illegible]
Fri 12 35, 4 00 7 30; Sat Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 9:00

WESTMOUNT CENTRE
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MEET THE FOCKERS 14A
Fri 12:45, 3.45, 7.20; Sat 3.45, 7.20, 10:00; Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 12:45, 3:45, 7:20, 10:00. Crude content, sexual language. No passes

LEMONY SNICKET'S: A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Fri 1:00, 4:00, 7:00; Sat 4:00, 7:00, 9.45; Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 1 00, 4:00, 7:00, 9 40

[illegible] PG
Fri 12:30 3.30, 6 45, Sat 3.30, 6:45, 9.30; Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 12 30, 3 30, 6 45, 9:30

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX [illegible]
Fri 1.15, 4:15, 7 10; Sat 4 15, 7:10, 9:50; Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 9:50

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MOVIES 12 & CINEMA CITY 12
[illegible]
CINEMA CITY [illegible] FRI/SAT MIDNIGHT SHOWS

BRIDGET JONES 2: THE EDGE OF REASON 14A
daily [illegible] 1 30 4 05 7 10 9 35 Fri/Sat 11 55
Coarse language

LADDER 49 PG
daily 1 10 1 35 4 10 7 05 9 50 Fri/Sat 12 10
Coarse language

SHALL WE DANCE PG
daily 11 25, 1 50 4 15, 7 15 9 45, Fri/Sat 12:00

[illegible] PG
daily 12:00 3 45 6 30 9 40 [illegible] language

THE FORGOTTEN PG
daily 11.20, 1 45 4 50 [illegible] Fri/Sat [illegible] 20 Frightening scenes

CELLULAR 14A
daily 11 30, 1 55 4 30 7 30 9 55 Fri/Sat [illegible] (Cinema City 12 showtimes)

CELLULAR 14A
daily 7 30, 9 55, Fri/Sat 12 25 (Movies 12 showtimes)

[illegible] G
daily 11 50, 2 20, 4:55, 7 20, 9 25, Fri/Sat 11 35

[illegible] R
daily 4 35, 10:05, Fri/Sat 12 15 Disturbing content

SHARK TALE G
daily 11 55, 2 05, 4 25, 7 10, 9:20, Fri/Sat 11 30

TEAM AMERICA: WORLD POLICE 18A
daily 11:05, 2:00, 7 45 Crude sexual language not recommended for children

THE NOTEBOOK PG
daily 11:05, 1 40, 4.20, 7:00, 9:40, Fri/Sat 12:10 Suggestive scenes

SURVIVING CHRISTMAS PG
daily 11 45, 2 10, 4 40, 7 25, 9:30, Fri/Sat 11 40 (Cinema City 12 showtimes)

SURVIVING CHRISTMAS PG
daily 11 45, 2 10, 4 40 (Movies 12 showtimes)

TAXI PG
daily 11:40, 2:20, 4:15, 7 35 10 00, Fri/Sat 12:05

WITHOUT A PADDLE 14A
daily 11 15, 1 55, 4 30, 7 15, 9:50, Fri/Sat 11.55 (Movies 12 only)

GALAXY CINEMAS

GALAXY CINEMAS
2020 SHERWOOD DR SHERWOOD PARK • [illegible]

[illegible] 14A
Fri 1 10, 3.45, 7 15; Sat 3:45, 7 15, 9:50; Sun-Thurs 1 10, 3:45, 7 15, 9 50 Crude content, sexual language No passes

LEMONY SNICKET'S: A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS PG
Fri 1:20, 3:50, 6:30; Sat 3 50, 6.30, 9:00; Sun-Thurs 1 20, 3.50, 6.30, 9:00

SPANGLISH PG
Fri 12:50, 3 40, 6:40; Sat 3 40, 6:40, 9 30; Sun-Thurs 12:50, 3:40, 6 40, 9:30 Coarse language, mature theme

FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX PG
Fri 1 40, 4 40 7 30; Sat 4 40, 7:30, 10:15; Sun-Thurs 1:40, 4:40, 7.30, 10 15 Coarse language, violence

[illegible] PG
Fri 12:30, 3:30, 6 45, 7:10; Sat 7.10, 10:00; Sun-Thurs 4:10, 7 10, 10:00 Coarse language No passes

BLADE: TRINITY 18A
Fri 1:00, 4:20, 7:00; Sat 10:10; Sun-Thurs 1:00, 10:10

[illegible] PG
Fri 7 20, Sat-Thurs 7 20, 9:40

NATIONAL TREASURE PG
Fri 12:40, 4:00, 6.50; Sat-Thurs 4:00, 6 50

[illegible] G
Fri 2:00, 4 10

[illegible] G
Fri 1.30, 4 30, 7:25, Sat 4 30; Sun-Thurs 1 30, 4:30

THE POLAR EXPRESS G
Fri 1:50, 4 10; Sat 4 10; Sun-Thurs 1 50

[illegible] G
Sat 4:55, 7:05, 9:15, Sun-Thurs 12:30, 2 40, 4.55, 7:05, 9 15

THE AVIATOR PG
Sat 4.20, 7 50; Sun-Thurs 12 40, 4:20, 7 50
Mature content, not recommended for young children. No passes

DARKNESS 14A
Sat 4.50, 7:40 10:20; Sun-Thurs 2:00, 4:50, 7.40, 10 20
Frightening scenes

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EXPERIENCED vocalist (female) with eclectic folk mediaeval sound seeks musicians or band with similar interests for recording purposes 909-9477

SINGER W/GUITAR looking to form/join PEARL JAM tribute project. Call 719-2991

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BASS PLAYER wanted for [illegible]

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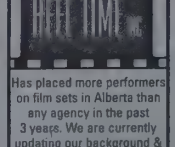

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SCHOOLS/CLASSES

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Employment Wanted

**Your resume
in 15 words or less?**
Post it here for just $6.49/week
(Additional words ARE available)
Call SEE Classified 430-9003.

Active Lifestyles

GET IN the game this Winter with the Edmonton Sport and Social Club! Co-ed sports leagues for active adults - indoor volleyball, soccer, floor hockey & basketball. Teams & individuals welcome Winter leagues start in January! Register at 429-GAME (4263) or www edmontonsportsclub com

Help Wanted

WANTING TO HIRE professional owner/operators for long haul trucking Cell 306-861-9288

MECHANICALLY INCLINED Personnel with tractor/trailer experience. Journeyman not necessarily required. Wages dependent on experience. Temporary accommodation. Benefits package available Fax resume with references 780-523-5833

Earn **extra pocket money** for minimal hours **SEE Magazine** is looking for a reliable person familiar with UofA campus to deliver SEE Magazine to campus locations, two hours every Thursday. Must be willing to commit for a full school year or longer. Vehicle an asset. Some heavy lifting required. Interested individuals please email resume to Kevin at **klaw@see.greatwest.ca** or fax **(780) 432-1102**

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Are you good looking & fun
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If this is you, call
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TECHNICIAN REQUIRED for GM dealership Will consider qualified apprentice Bonus plan for flat rate technicians. Relocation assistance may be provided Health, dental, prescription plans Please forward resume to Service Manager, c/o Western Chev Olds Pontiac Buick, Box 398, Drumheller, AB, T0J 0Y0 Fax 403-823-7237 Email western-chev@gmcanada.com

CLASS #1 tank truck drivers with off road experience. Catered camp job. Two weeks on and one week off Full-time. Fax resume with references 780-523-5833

ACCOUNTING FIRM in Central Alberta requires C A.'s, CMA's and CGA's interested in a career in public practice. Fax resume to Cookson Kooyman C.A.'s, Lacombe, 403-782-3070

DORAN STEWART Oilfield Services requires the following personnel for their winter camp projects. Warehouse personnel, ticketed pipefitters, non-ticketed pipefitters, operators for excavators, pipelayers, and dozers, labourers Please fax resume to 403-845-2365

DISTRIBUTORS WANTED Healthy Gourmet Coffee Brazilian, Arabic is now here Contains Reishi Mushrooms, tastes delicious New to North America Unlimited earning potential. Free sample 780-842-4903

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THIS SOUTHERN ALBERTA drilling company is presently seeking experience personnel for our Brooks drilling fleet We are recruiting experienced personnel for drilling, derrick, and motors positions for doubles, singles and ADR rigs Working two (2) weeks on, one (1) week off We are offering competitive wages, an excellent benefit package, and safety incentive program. All qualified applicants must have previous drilling rig experience and be required to pass a pre-employment drug screen and medical prior to employment. Please forward all resumes listing experience and certificates to. Human Resources, Box 1090, Brooks, AB, T1R 1B9 or fax 1-403-362-6165

FULL-TIME QUALIFIED picker operator Also experience welder and heavy duty mechanic. Positions open. Competitive wages full benefits Fax resume 780-842-3899

DRIVERS WANTED

SEE Magazine is looking for Route Drivers for Thursday delivery. Good pay. Must have own truck or van

**Please fax or email resume to:
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If you want to work on the cutting edge and believe in going the extra distance, submit your resume and cover letter to:

**Margaret Crowe, Sales Director
SEE Magazine
10275 Jasper Avenue, Suite 200
Edmonton, AB T5J 1X8
Email: mcrowe@see.greatwest.ca**

SEE magazine

Only applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

Help Wanted

IPS MANUFACTURING Limited provides quality equipment to the oil and gas producers throughout Western Canada Our continued growth has created a number of job openings for apprentice structural "B" pressure welders as well as pipe fitting crews Competitive wages, good benefits and steady work environment make this an attractive opportunity. Fax resume to 403-884 2106 No phone calls please

RANCHER'S BEEF LTD requires versatile, energetic individuals for their feedlot near Czar Alberta Positions include cattle induction, treating, feeding and other miscellaneous jobs as required Wages starting no lower than $13./hour Fax resumes with references to 780-856-2656 or phone 780-209-0501

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JOURNEYMAN or 4th year plumber. Experience to include new housing, service, and some furnace repair. Well established company in Rocky Mountain House, Alberta. Company benefits 1-403-845-7949

PTI PREMIUM CAMP Services a subsidiary of PTI Group Inc., who provides remote site camp and catering services is currently seeking. Drivers, Chefs, Cooks Bakers Please submit resume to 3050 Parsons Road, Edmonton, T6N 1B1 Fax 780-461-3114 recruiting@ptigroup com or RR 3, Site 1, Box 50, Grande Prairie T8V 5N3 Fax 780-539-3434 dzember@ptigroup com by December 31, 2004

NEEDED IMMEDIATELY heavy duty mechanic for Terroco Industries in Edson, Alberta Please fax resume to 780-723-2686 Attention Lorne or email terroco@telusplanet net

WANTED EXPERIENCED operator for Slickline Truck, based out of Kindersley, SK. At least 1 year experience preferred Fax resume to 306-463-6304 or call Jim 306-463-6533 Cell 306-463-[redacted]

WORK FROM HOME on your computer. Full or part-time. No experience required. Start today Visit our website now; www.My-HomePCJob com Code A1

FULL-TIME Maintenance/building operator B/Cert New 4th Class to maintain mechanical equipment/systems c/o Brad Shenher, Wainwright Health Centre, 530 - 6 Ave., Wainwright, AB, T9W 1R6 Phone 780-842-3324

Help Wanted

TOWN OF Turner Valley [illegible] Administrative Officer [illegible] team player with exceptional leadership and communication abilities a strategic thinker with outstanding [illegible] skills ready to take [illegible] for the successful [illegible] and operation of a growing community in the foothills [illegible] contact the Town Office [illegible] 403-933-4944, fax 403-933 [illegible] Email barbs@turnervalley ca [illegible] obtain full advertisement and job description details Deadline Noon, January 14, 2005

LOOKING FOR a new career? Live and work in the [illegible] Institute of professional diver training Student financing Worldwide job placement www prodivetraining com or 1-866-861-1848

TRUSS DESIGNER CDN Frameworks, sunny Okanagan Enderby, BC New shop CNC SAW (Hundegger). Housing and moving allowance, salary negotiable Start Feb /05 Email cdn@sunwave net. Phone 250 832-1503

CLASS 3 TANK truck driver required to haul fluid in the Provost Alberta and Macklin Saskatchewan areas. All oilfield applicable tickets required. Fax resume 780-753-4845

FURNITURE RESTORATION & Model Boat Carving. A business opportunity with top-up compensation & revenue-sharing for persons on support grants Alberta Job Creation Institute 465-5080

SNEAK PREVIEW, Edmonton's premier movie store, is looking for a flexible daytime clerk Apply in person: 4047-106 St Outgoing personality and movie knowledge a must

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MALE DANCERS WANTED will train no exp necessary Athletic or muscular build required Email info joey@telusplanet net (780)-951-1373

EXPERIENCED energetic server wanted at The Melting Pot Bring resume to 10351 - 82Ave 433-6336

Business Opportunity

[illegible] County [illegible] Hardware [illegible] dealerships available [illegible] year [illegible] Can [illegible] www [illegible]

GREAT CANADIAN DOLLAR Store [illegible] 1 8 7 388 [illegible] www dollarstores [illegible]

TRAVEL AGENT home based independent [illegible] team [illegible] online [illegible] Call [illegible] travel agent [illegible]

MAKE [illegible] fast [illegible] how? Log on to www [illegible] or call [illegible]

$7000 in 30 days! Guaranteed! Do you know [illegible] to turn $[illegible] into $[illegible] 30 days? James [illegible]

Farm Stuff

ROUND HAY BALES for [illegible] Cheap Free delivery, self-unloading. No Sunday calls please 403-843-6380 Also wanted Dodge diesel

OATS, BARLEY, WHEAT Buying feeds grains of all types Wheat, oats, barley, peas rye heated or green canola On farm pick-up Westcan Feed and Grain. 1-877-250-5252

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Conquer your fear of
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Join City Lights Toastmasters Meetings downtown every Tuesday at noon For more details call Perry at 426-5882

COUNSELLING available from supervised Masters' & Doctoral students in the UofA Counselling Psychology Graduate Program For more info call 492-3746

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Careers

Careers

Recognize any of these?

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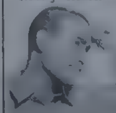

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Job Search / Career Support Services
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Downtown Edmonton Location

Help Wanted

Help Wanted

OUTSIDE SALES REPRESENTATIVE

SEE Magazine has an excellent opportunity in our outside advertising sales department. We are looking for an enthusiastic, motivated and competitive person with a great attitude and a strong work ethic. We need someone who thrives in a team environment and also works well on their own. We want a people-person who is excited about discussing marketing options with business owners and decision makers.

This is a great opportunity for a sales rep who has cold call experience and an outstanding track record.

We provide a competitive salary, commission and benefits package

**Please send your resume and cover letter to:
Margaret Crowe, Sales Director
See Magazine
10275 Jasper Avenue, Suite 200
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1X8
Fax: 432-1102
Email: mcrowe@see.greatwest.ca**

Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted

SEE magazine

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Support Groups

FEELING ALONE? You can always talk to us. 24 hour Distress Line 482-HELP(4357) Here to listen when life hurts. The Support Network www.thesupportnetwork.com

THE MANKIND PROJECT A men's group committed to personal growth, healing & community Call Dave 469-7341

Volunteers

HIV/AIDS in Africa Be part of the solution & volunteer on overseas community development projects Tanzania & Ethiopia projects starting January 2005 Visit programplanning@yci.org

CANADIAN MENTAL Health Association needs volunteers A great way to enhance your education with real life experience Call Rose 414-6300

VOLUNTEER project manager wanted for new community ministry experienced in non-profit start-up Must be friendly, motivated & committed 474-6787

BEBENSEE SCHIZOPHRENIA Research Unit at UofA seeks men with schizophrenia for research study Reimbursement provided Call 492-6026

Boyle McCauley Health Centre needs volunteers for a variety of programs and services that serve the inner city's diverse needs. For more info call Denise 422-7333 ext 266 or bmhc.net

HELP TO broadcast news nationally for the blind and print-restricted! edmonton@voiceprint-canada.com or call 451-8331

HOME CARE volunteers visit isolated neighbors, go for walks help with errands Call Capital Health Home Care 496-1300

VOLUNTEER TUTORS needed Can you read this? Many can't! Share the gift of reading & change a life through literacy Call P.A.L.S. 424-5514

HELP US READ! Literacy tutors needed to assist adults with disabilities learn basic reading and writing Flexible hours training provided Lily 432-1137

ADULT RECREATION Companions Have fun while helping adults with disabilities get connected to community activities Flexible hours Lily 432-1137

DISTRESS LINE or Youthone Crisis Chat volunteers get excellent training, career-related skill development, rewarding experience AND ensure those in need will have someone there to listen when life hurts. Training starts in September Call the Support Network 732-6648 or www.thesupportnetwork.com

HEALTHY Volunteers required for research studies with the Brain Neurobiology Research Program at UofA. Call 407-3775 or 407-3221 Reimbursement provided

VOLUNTEER with Seniors! Make a difference! 3 to 4 hours a week Association of Adult Day Support Programs. Donna 434-4747

GROUP FACILITATORS needed for Rainbows, a program for children and youth dealing with separation divorce or death of a parent Training provided Strathcona County (Sherwood Park) Kerry 464-4044

Volunteers

ENJOY DRIVING? Volunteers needed to assist seniors to & from medical appointments Mileage reimbursed Call Capital Health Home Care 496-1300

GET TO know people from Edmonton's ethnic communities Volunteers needed for pre-school literacy evenings & weekends Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers Suzanne 423-9677

HELP immigrant youth improve their Math, English & Science Thursdays 3:30-5pm Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers Suzanne 423-9677

HIV Edmonton is looking for volunteers for intake, reception & filing 9-11:30am Tuesday mornings Veronica 488-5742ext 225

The Edmonton Klondike Days Association requires volunteers all positions, for the New Years Eve Downtown festival 423-2822

OPERATION RED NOSE is looking for volunteers to help with its annual free designated driver program to keep impaired drivers off the road Call 702-8000

YOUTH Challenge International volunteers needed for development projects in Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Guyana, Tanzania & Vanatu, starting in Dec, Jan & Feb LIMITED SPACES Apply now at programplanning@yci.org

3rd Busker's Ball seeks buskers & fun-loving volunteers to host a benefit concert for the Parkland Institute Bill 433-5159

BEFRIEND A NEW CANADIAN! Share information on Edmonton's services, Canadian lifestyle & help with English conversation Call Dulan 474-8445

A HEALTHY daily meal is part of the learning process for the participants in the CanngFamilies Program at KARA FamilySupport Centre Volunteers are needed to assist in the kitchen Call Lana 478-5396

BRAIN Neurobiology Research Program at UofA seeks individuals suffering from **severe PMS** for research study Call 407-3775 Reimbursement provided

BRAIN Neurobiology Research Program at UofA seeks individuals suffering from **panic attacks** for research study Call 407-3221 Reimbursement provided

BRAIN Neurobiology Research Program at UofA seeks individuals suffering from **social phobia** for research study Call 407-3221 Reimbursement provided

IF YOU or your brother or sister has schizophrenia, call 492-6033 to be in a research study Expenses paid

IF YOU are healthy, right-handed and 18-55 years old, call 492-6033 to be in a research study Expenses paid

MEALS ON WHEELS needs volunteer drivers between 10am & 1pm weekdays, as well as kitchen volunteers Contact Linda at 429-2020

PILGRIMS HOSPICE provides support for families experiencing life-limiting illness We welcome volunteers with many different skills Call 413-9801 to volunteer

VOLUNTEER WITH your dog in animal-assisted therapy project Dogs must be >1yr old and be obedient & follow commands Chemo Project 452-2451

YOU CAN make a difference!! Volunteer Canadian born? Canadian by choice? Call 425-7869 or www.newhomecentre.org

Volunteers

BRING HOPE to man in prison Become a sponsor with Community Justice Ministries, a program of Mennonite Central Committee Alberta. Call Gary 908-6292

CANADIAN BLOOD SERVICES is looking for enthusiastic volunteers. Flexible shifts Rewarding experience that helps save lives Please call 431-8740

YEAR ROUND On-line Auction for Alberta Easter Seals http://auction.edmonton24hourrelay.com Donate items, bid, have a great time Carmen 429-0137 x233

...sO tHIS iZ X-MAS... ... ... www.mashuga.net

CLOTHING BANK of Inner city seniors' agency needs Winter clothing men's jeans size 32+, men's t-shirts, men's shoes & boots size 9+. For info call Sandie 429-2626

Volunteers needed to plan, organize & execute fundraisers for Edmonton Community Network One time & on-going positions avail Contact Candida 701-5070 or volcoord@ecn.ab.ca

Men Seeking Women

SPANISH guy, 29, white, single, good-looking, likes dining, talking & getting to know each other, would like to meet ladies for friendship or serious relationship Call 707-0218 after 8PM

NEW TO Edmonton: Chinese male, 34, tall, fit, good looking, professional, employed, likes to travel, arts, dining. Seeks female for fun and friendship. Email mekan36@hotmail.com

Men Seeking Men

GUY SEEKS other guys for friendship & massage practice 421-7996

I Saw You

CLIVE at Save-On downtown, Saturday night: I'm down with the easy chair & TV. kiwibouldingue@yahoo.com

Carlotta or Victoria, at Headstones concert a long time ago, Shaw, you live near Bon Accord Danced, talked Can't get you out of my head . mbacy13@aol.com

I Saw You

Papa Bear, I love you & I want the world to know! Mama Bear xo

RYAN: you keep sneaking into my dreams. Missing you down here Merry Christmas, Petite.

Craig from Curl Up n'Dye: where are you? I haven't had a good haircut since you left Come back!

THANKS PATRICK, for the incredible weekend at the cabin The gourmet foor, liquor & wonderful movies were amazing! Love Dwayne

SECRET ADMIRER: I'm very flattered. Why not email me? Email tysinlicious@hotmail.com Tysin - Stonehouse Pub

ATTENTION: Stacey's Stagette You are now directed to make your way to Gazebo Park.

DFG rocks Always did. Always will. Deep Fine Grinder forever - Vic

I Saw You

I SAW YOU ads are FREE, up to 20 words. Just so you know classifieds@see.greatwest.ca or call 430-9003

YOU: RECEPTIONIST, redhead glasses, Millwoods Town Centre Clinic. Me: Kory, regular patient lots of eye contact. You are gorgeous! bag6699@hotmail.com

RENEE, the house is lucky to have a hot chef like you! Rutherford SB.

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ALL KINDS of psychics. Be ready for 2005! Love? Money? Life? 1-900-677-5872 or V/MC and PayPal 1-877-478-4410. 24/7 $2.99/min. 18+ www.mysticalconnections.ca.

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NEW TOY ALREADY BUSTED?

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* ACTIVITIES!
* COLOURING!
* A PRIZE!
SNOWBOARD AND BINDINGS (COURTESY OF UNITED CYCLE)
AMAZING!
SPECIAL
PLUS: OUR REVIEWERS LIST THE BEST MOVIES OF 2004!
REMEMBER TO GRAB YOUR COPY, BEFORE THEY'RE GONE!

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SEE Classifieds

Phone 430-9003 Fax 432-1102

classifieds@see.greatwest.ca

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-5:00 pm

Non-Adult Line Ads
15 Word or Less.....$6.49 + GST
Each Additional Word .$0.25 + GST
Bold-Flat Rate.....$2.50 + GST
Centred (First Line).....$2.00 + GST
(Each additional).....$0.50 + GST
Blank Line.....$2.00 + GST

Deadline Tuesday at 3 p.m.

Buy 6 weeks and get ONE FREE!

Buy 12 weeks and get THREE FREE!

FREE HEADINGS: Artist to Artist, Musicians Available, Musicians Wanted, Support Groups, Volunteers, I Saw You
** Provided the ad is not for profit* ** Up to 20 words or subject to regular pricing* ** Free ad deadline Monday 3 p.m.*

Name _____ Heading _____ Number of Weeks _____
Address _____ Credit Card _____ Exp. _____
Daytime Phone _____ MC VISA AMEX
Print your ad clearly in the spaces provided. Signature _____

/15

Payment must be included with ad. If mailing, mail to: SEE Classified, Ste. 200, 10275 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1X8. We cannot confirm receipt of ad. Ads are not guaranteed to run and we reserve the right to re-categorize, edit and refuse private party ads. Please include GST in payment.

Remember this is an 18+ section. Remember to use "Adult" discretion when making calls.

FEMALE ESCORTS

LAURYN 44 Attractive, blue eyed Brunette. Fun, friendly & discreet. Call 413-0288 24979172,30060006

JAMIE 41 Curvy, Attractive & Fun. Long legs, great physique, Lingerie & Toys. Lie back & relax 964-LUVN

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for 1/2 hour calls
Mention ad & get discount.
Kathleen 439-3063

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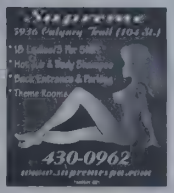

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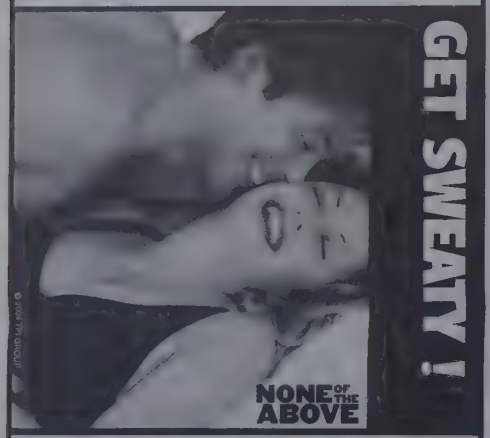

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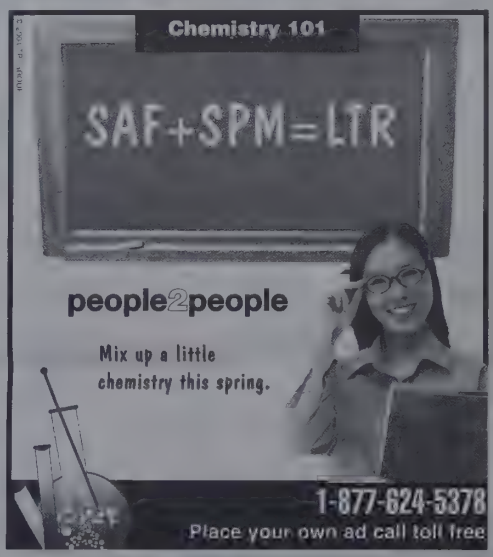

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DECEMBER 23 TO 29

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
It's a darn good thing ol' Sol strolled into your sign the other day. That's 'cause starin' Monday, you're gonna be besieged like General Custer and you'll need all the help you can muster. However, don't rely solely [illegible]

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
It don't matter how [illegible]

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
Gamers aren't the [illegible] bad thing to have but don't get too carried away — winter ain't over just 'cause of one [illegible]. You still got a way to go [illegible] the snow melts in the field and [illegible]

Aries (March 21-April 19)
[illegible] as a snake wrinkles its [illegible] skills!

Taurus (April 20-May 29)
The problem ain't that all the other ducks think you're weird, freaky, or even ugly, it's the fact that you've been lingerin' out [illegible] too long. Sure, they're fun to flock with but you're way overdue to hang out with other swans just like you. This week, put aside duckish things, spread your wings and take to the [illegible]

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
Y'all [illegible] you ain't [illegible] to play the cards you've been dealt. It's ain't grand that this week's [illegible] you've been dealt a mean hand [illegible] impulses rule, 'cause it ain't no coincidence that foo rhymes with you!

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
Although we're still in the midst of the holiday season, soon your body'll be cryin' treason if you only do what's [illegible]. It ain't just about not gainin' weight, it's [illegible] your physical state. This week, try to tame your inner beast — or take [illegible] mins and get some sleep at least!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
The fact that cats have nine lives oughtta mean you realize you can start over, start again real easy if the need should arise. Like will in the current week — when the cycle of life is complete, so to speak. Don't be afraid to finally trade in for your new destiny, remember: follow your heart and you'll be [illegible] free!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Hey good lookin', [illegible] got [illegible]? You got a lot in your pot, so [illegible] must be a brewin'. That's why this week, you oughtta get down — [illegible] what'll make you a shoo-in [illegible] success — keep stirrin' [illegible]

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Being righteous and good and doin' what you should is strictly a solo endeavor. You may be mighty clever but that don't mean it's your duty to intervene and sort out someone else's scene. This week, worry about your own behavior. Cause you'll just get into trouble by tryin' to play saviour!

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
It ain't no secret that sometimes, when you do your best to behave, you feel like no more than a slave to society's rules. Well, as annoyin' as decrees and morals can be, you can observe 'em and still [illegible] the spirit of the law and you'll reap the rewards that'll drop your jaw in awe!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
If there's anyone who needs to be challenged and can't afford bein' bored, it's you arrow slingin' sagittarians. Sittin' around ain't conducive to makin' your success less elusive. This week, idle hands'll get whacked by the devil, so it's time you take life to the next level!

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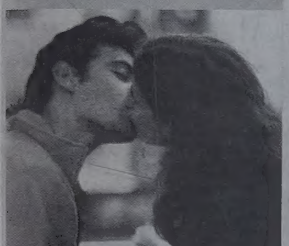

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Women Seeking Men

LET'S GO PLACES
SWPF, 57, N/S, enjoys outdoors, belongs to a dance club, recently took up golfing, always enjoys life, seeks SWM, 50-60, with wide range of interests. ☎524859

VERY GIVING PERSON
Widow, 61, 5'4", blonde, enjoys health food, music. Interested in meeting similar gentleman, 60-70, widower preferred, for outdoor activities, sports, golf. ☎510306

SOCIAL BUTTERFLY
Health-conscious SWF, 55, 5'5", 135lbs, N/S, enjoys movies, theater, has a great sense of humor, seeks SWM, 50-60, N/S, who loves to meet new people. ☎511679

CARING HEART
Honest SWF, 34, smoker, motorcycle enthusiast, has great appreciation for all that life brings us, seeks SM, 25-48, who is adventurous, funny, w/zest for life. ☎495987

EVERYTHING TOGETHER
Feminine, sophisticated, SWCF, 35, brunette, fine dining, boating, quality time together. ISO single pro executive, christian, under 54, high morals, marriage-minded. Ontario. Willing to re-locate. ☎485573

LOOKING 4 SOMETHING REAL
SM, 44, 5', dark hair, fun-loving, happy, enjoys horseback riding, the outdoors. Seeking ruggedly handsome SM, heavyset, facial hair A+, to share life/love. ☎548196

MUST BE FAMILY-ORIENTED
Widowed lady would like to met a tall, well-established, honest gentleman, 53-68. I enjoy travel, being outdoors and time with my grandchildren. ☎532519

WARM, CARING, LOYAL
WWF, 59, smoker, N/D, children grown, good morals, kind, honest, affectionate, very warm, caring, loyal, loves the outdoors, seeking friend and companion, for dating. ☎542180

SPIRITUAL LADY
SWF, young 50, Capricorn, N/S, 5', 110lbs, brown eyes, enjoys the country, animals, the arts, holistic health, more. Seeking man, 35-60, N/S, for possible relationship. ☎482529

LOOKING FOR...
exceptional mate. 43-year-old woman seeks someone w/similar interests. Very active, 5'8", 138lbs, works out frequently, wishes to share travel, wining, dining, nights by the fire. ☎421516

SLEEPLESS IN EDMONTON
SWF, 39, N/S, social drinker, enjoys nights out, cuddling at home. Seeking romantic, caring, affectionate SWM, 33-43, for friendship, possible relationship. ☎432752

DROP ME A LINE
Female, 25, 5'6", slim, Virgo, N/S, loves to play sports, watching movies, seeks WM, 25-35, N/S, intelligent, that can hold a good conversation, for LTR. ☎442561

DREAM OF ME
Attractive SWF, 49, strawberry-blonde hair, registered nurse, likes to read, enjoys long, invigorating walks, seeks deep, complimentary gentleman, 50-55. ☎422783

HEADSTRONG
SWF, 44, 5'1", smoker, loves to curl, finds gardening and interior decorating fun and rewarding, seeks SWM, 43-50, smoker, for dating and possible relationship. ☎415172

HAPPY-GO-LUCKY
SF, 67", tall, blue eyes, happy-go-lucky, spontaneous, honest, loves dining, drives, travel, dancing, movies, volunteer work, seeking the right SM, 59-68, for dating. ☎512033

NEW IN TOWN
SWF, 40, N/S, enjoys local parks, the woods. Seeking WM, 40-44, who wants to have fun. ☎513419

WHAT TO DO?
Fit DWF, 46, seeks companionship. British background, academic, professional, has lots of time on hands, plays soccer, wishes to meet SWM who likes country life. ☎524113

GENUINE SWEETHEART
Intelligence! Heart of gold! Sense of humor! SF enjoys movies, travel, outdoors, friend and family. Seeking one super, great guy, 32-44, best friend for life. ☎510586

BIG GREEN EYES
SWF, 36, 5'6", marriage-minded, smoker, hairstylist, homeowner, enjoys sports but especially appreciates the arts, seeks SWM, 35-43, smoker, to share life. ☎511658

REDHEAD LOVES LIFE
SWF, 53, 5'4", loves life, love, and laughter! Looking for SWM, 18-35, to share life's experiences with! ☎425219

THE WAY IT SHOULD BE
Kind, affectionate, fun-loving, sensual, active, attractive SF, 23, seeks kind, confident, ambitious, open, affectionate, passionate, attractive SM, 18-30, for friendship, possible relationship. ☎432950

LOOK NO FURTHER
Easygoing, energatic SWF, 46, brown/brown, people person, loves life, seeks soulmate in SWM, 42-50, who loves cuddling, sporting events, plays, parties, more. ☎462137

I DON'T EXPECT...
Prince Charming or Einstein, just an honest to goodness intelligent man, 46-62, for possible relationship. ☎482622

SWEET AND FUN!
Friendly, quiet, shy, sweet, honest, respectful, understanding SWF, 18, 5'3", blonde/blue, seeks similar SWM, 18-21. ☎462775

WILL WE GO TOGETHER?
SBF, 52, Scorpio, N/S, 5'1", dark complexion, works evenings, enjoys movies, occasional dancing, seeks man, 45-59, N/S, with similar interests. ☎468841

KIND, AFFECTIONATE...
fun-loving, attractive, trustworthy SWF, 37, long brown/green, medium build, N/S, enjoys weekend travel. Seeking WM, 30-45, for friendship, possible romance. ☎469974

NOT INTO HEAD GAMES
SWF, 62, 5'5", 125lbs, blonde/blue, loves dining, dancing, travel, seeks outgoing single man, 62-66, who is tall, slender, cowboy type a plus! ☎477132

DANCING, DINING, TRAVEL
Young-looking SWF, 65+, N/S, in good proportion and health, seeks educated SWM, 65-80, N/S, to share pleasant things life has to offer. ☎483158

WANT TO KNOW MORE?
SF, 21, 5'9", brown hair, green eyes, cute, medium build, seeks fun, romantic, outgoing, humorous SM, 23-35, with personality. ☎519722

SHARE THE FUN
SWF, 62, 5'10", retired, N/S, loves comedy and drama films, country and easy rock music. Seeking WM, 55-68, who loves theatre. ☎404027

YOUTHFUL
Retired WWF, secure, 65, Taurus, mother/grandmother, frosted brown/brown, 5'3", 140lbs, well-groomed, N/S, enjoys painting, fitness, travel, dancing, cooking, plants, dining. Seeking SM w/similar interests/traits. ☎489767

LIVE, LOVE, AND LAUGH
SWF, camping, traveling, outdoor activities, water skiing, loves motorbikes, laughter, great SOH and enjoys life. ISO SWM 30-43, similar interests friends first and possibly more. ☎286599

Men Seeking Women

TO THE POINT
SWM, 37, 5'8", brown/brown, slim build, Libra, N/S, enjoys Chinese cuisine. Seeking woman, 18-41, smoker, for LTR. ☎554274

WORLDLY FELLOW
University-educated SWM, 48, 6'2", N/S, has a wonderful smile, is fascinated by the affairs of the world, seeks woman, 34-49, N/S, w/eclectic interests, for LTR. ☎276987

ACTIVE AND EASYGOING
Classical music relaxes this SWM, 74, 5'8", N/S. Seeking intriguing female, 68-75, N/S, to share music, books, honest friendship. ☎278122

ENJOY YOURSELF
Single guy, 51, Pisces, smoker, very slim, dark/dark, seeks single woman, 40-50, who likes to go out on the town every once in a while. ☎544820

LIVES IN THE COUNTRY
DWM, 50, 6', 200lbs, hazel eyes, Leo, N/S, with 4 children, loves playing hockey, live theatre, barbecues, and playing cards. Seeking woman, 45-55, N/S. ☎546752

SEASONS GREETINGS
SWM, 43, Cancer, N/S, social drinker, loves music, sports and long walks. Seeking WF, 25-40, N/S, for dating. ☎552064

TLC TO SHARE
Sincere, kind-hearted WWM, 51, fit, N/S, employed, loves life, golf, fishing in the mountains, playing pool, romance. Seeking attractive, affectionate, kind lady to share happiness. ☎548036

LET'S GET TOGETHER...
and talk things over. SWM, 54, 5'8", 170lbs, blond/blue, semi-retired, N/S, enjoys C&W movies. Seeking woman, 30-50, N/S, N/D, N/Drugs, for friendship, possible romance. ☎554067

WITTY, OUTGOING...
sensitive, adventurous, caring SWM, 43, 5'4", N/S, enjoys walking in the river valley. Seeking #F, 27-40, N/S, for LTR. ☎530315

NO INTRO NEEDED
SWM, 38, 5'10", 150lbs, shoulder-length brown/hazel, carpenter, Libra, smoker, enjoys swimming, skating, hiking. Seeking woman, 27-45, kind, sensitive, caring. ☎547997

LOOKING FORWARD
SWM, 46, 6'3", 200lbs, brown/brown, active, N/S, w/serious interest in music, i.e. rock, also politics, world events, etc. Seeking WF, 33-39, N/S, music lover. LTR. ☎531262

MY SPECIAL ONE?
SPM, 28, 6'1", long hair, hazel eyes, takes care of himself, enjoys movies, life, love, laughter, seeking a SF, 40+, for fun and dating. ☎542133

JOHN ME
SM, 31, blond/blue, good-humored, N/S, N/D, likes meeting people, sports, life outdoors, more. ISO good-humored SF who's active and open-minded, for sharing friendship, possibly more. ☎542780

LET'S TALK
SM, 21, 5'11", student, 195lbs, dark hair, muscular build, seeks sociable, sweet, fun SF, to share casual dates and more. ☎543061

COULD IT BE YOU?
SM, 30, smoker, father, heavy equipment operator, enjoys 4-wheeling, horseback riding, mountains, family, camping, more. Seeking active, fun, child-friendly SF w/same interests for friendship, more. ☎545953

HEY! CHECK THIS OUT!
SWM, 32, N/S, union welder, wishes to meet a fun lady, 25-34, N/S, who enjoys the outdoors, theater, travel, and art, for LTR. ☎527175

LIFE IS BEST SHARED
SWM, 24, 5'11", 190lbs, blond/blue, muscular, N/S, journeyman auto mechanic, enjoys riding motorcycles. Seeking adventurous woman, 18-30, who knows what she wants. ☎527781

WANTED:VINTAGE MODEL
Cute SWM, 37, loves to laugh, seeks SWF, 40-55, to have fun and share good times. ☎462017

NOT A BAR FLY
SWM, 54, 6'3", 230lbs, enjoys working out. Seeking fit, like-minded, educated, professional, intelligent woman, 40-50, for possible relationship. No games. ☎483501

YOU COULD BE THE ONE
SWM, 23, 5'9", smoker, plays many musical instruments, likes to listen to music, dine out, seeks SF, 19-25, for casual dating and friendship. ☎495896

GET IN TOUCH!
Native SM, 28, 6'2", 210lbs, N/S, likes horror movies, concerts, family and friends, bars. Looking for SF, 18-35, for possible relationship. ☎518561

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Sincere SWM, 60, 5'7", 165 lbs, enjoys the outdoors, movies, dining, dancing. ISO sincere, slender SF, who shares the same interests. ☎730883

I'M SERIOUS
Widowed WM, 46, 5'8", 140lbs, brown/blue, marriage-minded, smoker, enjoys barbecueing, adventure films and westerns. Seeking woman, 40-48, kind, caring, loving, honest. ☎404954

SINCERE? LOYAL? CARING?
SWM, 35, 5'5", 145lbs, short brown/brown, glasses (sometimes), no children, smoker, enjoys playing pool and cards, reading and writing poetry. Seeking WF, 28-37, children ok. ☎402755

ALBERTA GUY FOR A SWEETY
SWM, 36, 180lbs, 6", blond/blue, looking for attractive sexy SWF, 20-40, preferably tall, to become my sweet and passionate companion. ☎494328

Men Seeking Men

FIT AND DOWN-TO-EARTH
SBM, 35, 5'10", 175lbs, athletic build, smoker, seeks cool normal guy, 25-48, who likes the outdoors, movies, hanging out at home. ☎288057

SEEKING MY PARTNER
GM, 25, 6'3", 250lbs, likes dancing, singing, horseback riding, skiing and listening to music. Looking for man, 20-40, who enjoys the same. ☎546437

TODAY'S NEWS
BWM, 44, 5'9", 165lbs, brown/green, smoker, loves golf and ice skating. Seeking man, 30-55, who loves movies, for casual dating. ☎475051

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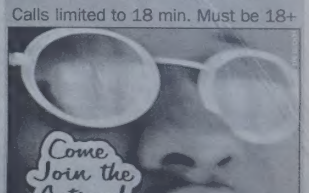

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D/D free=Drinking/Drug Free;
ISO=In Search Of;
LTR=Long Term Relationship;
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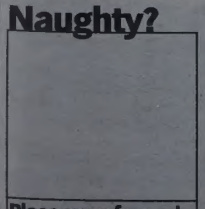

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FAVOURITE SEXY GIFT YOU'VE RECEIVED:

Most wicked: "PVC panties and a matching bra."

Most sweet: "When I finally decided to have sex for the first time, my boyfriend made reservations at a wonderful hotel and took me to Quebec City for the weekend. It was the most wonderful experience ever."

Most sweet (literally): "Chocolate syrup, whipped cream, and sprinkles; not only can it be used on me, but also on ice cream!"

Most cerebral: "The mind of my lover—her willingness to explore her sensual depths"

Most sad: "I'm 34 years of age, and I've never received a sexy gift in my life. I'm a therapist's wet dream."

FAVOURITE SEXY GIFT YOU'VE GIVEN:

Most wicked: "A sexy portfolio of artsy nude pictures of myself (shot by Hera Bell, www.herabell.com)."

Most practical: "Good gin."

Most fun: "Edible body paint and fluffy handcuffs."

Most well-presented: "A Fleshlight, wrapped in lace as a Christmas present and placed under the Christmas tree (but not opened in front of my parents)." (FYI, A Fleshlight is a toy for boys: looks like a flashlight filled with cyberskin. Lube it up, stick it in and off you go).

Most sad: Never given any.

FAVOURITE SEX TOY:

Coldest: "Ice cubes"

Best-named: "My Clitterific!"

Cheapest: Tied between: "My boyfriend's hands. I have a vibrator, but who needs it when your boyfriend plays classical and jazz guitar?!" and "The female body."

Second cheapest: "Silk scarves for bondage, blindfolds, and caressing."

Oldest and Noisiest (and second best-named): "Big Bertha, a plug-in 'personal massager' I bought 16 years ago–big, noisy, but oh-so powerful!"

Most cerebral: "My mind/my obsession"

Most classic: "ANY hand-held shower massager!"

FAVOURITE FANTASY AND FAVOURITE FANTASY YOU'VE ACTUALLY REALIZED:

Most congruent: "Two women and me" and "Two women and me."

Most incongruent: "Me as a stripper, and the whole bar wants *me*" and "Sex in a tanning bed."

Most Canadian: "Sex in a snow bank" and "Sex in a snow bank."

Most Penthouse-influenced: "Watching girl-on-girl action" and "Being watched doing it by a group of people."

Most disturbing: "The willing rape of a woman requiring more than 'sex' with breath play" and "the willing rape of a woman requiring more than 'sex' with breath play."

Most "you go, girl" fantasy: "I invited a young buck up to my room and suggested a reversal of roles: I would saddle up and ride him! Being somewhat adventurous and wanting to impress this 'older woman,' he agreed. My dildo was a bit too large for him, but my butt plug suited him fine. I rode him in every position a woman new to this would want to ride a man, and my receiver came three times (I did mention he was young)."

Most, "aw, shucks" inspiring fantasy: "Sex in a loving, committed relationship."

Most reminiscent of most people's nightmare fantasy: "Almost getting caught by either his or my parents while giving a blowjob or having sex."

FAVOURITE FOREPLAY ACTION:

As a big fan myself, I was glad to see so many folks just can't get enough kissing, necking, smooching, or whatever you like to call the delicious union of lips, tongues and mouths.

Plenty of tongue action on clits, dicks and any other part of the body you happen upon also proved popular as did teasing, touching, rubbing, nuzzling and yer basic "ass licking," of course.

FAVOURITE SEXUAL POSITION:

You guys are a bunch of animals. Doggy style was by far the favourite position, followed by girl on top and missionary. Glad all this exposure to sex is expanding our repertoires. Ah well, I guess there's always room for "the good ole classics" as one reader put it.

Though some of you are challenging yourselves. In some cases, physically. One guy likes it best standing. "It's the most laborious, but well worth the effort."

Others are contorting yourselves into all kinds of pretzel like positions that I have far too little space to explain.

And, who knew, someone who actually likes 69ing. Personally, I find it splits my focus.

Most reminiscent of people's nightmare fantasy: "Almost getting caught by his or my parents while giving a blowjob or having sex."

FAVOURITE LOCATION:

Bed. Again, a classic. Well, there's a reason this column isn't called My Messy Kitchen Table.

Though a few of you favour the old clear-the-table trick.

Others are happy pretty much anywhere. Like, urn, the mall.

Cerebral boy likes to have sex in "the places and spaces of the mind."

FAVOURITE SEXY QUALITY ABOUT YOUR PARTNER AND YOURSELF:

Then again, maybe cerebral boy's on to something. When it comes to things you value in yourself and your partner, seems it's all in the mind and the attitude. Topping people's lists were: enthusiasm, confidence, generosity in bed, an ability to enjoy sex, a willingness to try new things (as long as it's in bed, right?), curiousity, and an insatiable mind. Or a dirty mind, as in one reader's case. Not all of us are quite so heady. Some of us are more booby, like the woman whose favourite quality about herself is her 34DD breasts, and her beautiful eyes, of course.

MMB CONTEST WINNERS

Thanks to everyone who sent in

answers to the questions in the MMB gift giveaway contest. Winners were drawn from the correct answers.

Candida Royalle starred with Johnny Keys in the 1979 porn movie *Pro Ball Cheerleaders*. Paula Déry wins a copy of video copy of *Urban Friction*, produced by Libido Films.

Steely Dan is the band named after a dildo. James Jarvis and Sonja Clausen win a Ring-a-Ding vibrator courtesy of Womyn's Ware (womynsware.com)

Joan Sims appears as a corsetiere in the 1970 film Carry on Loving. Rebecca Traquair wins a set of PVC cuffs courtesy of Lovesick Corrective Apparel (lovesickcorrectiveapparel.com)

Bernice Lum's English bull terrier likes to hump pylons. Matthew Elliott wins a copy of Lum's book, *12 Steps to Heaven* (bernicelum.com).

Josey Vogels is Canada's premiere sex and relationships columnist. Her new book, Bedside Manners: Sex Etiquette Made Easy *(Harper Collins) is available through her new website: joseyvogels.com*

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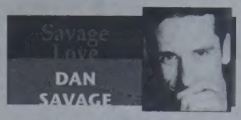
Anal about anal

Remember where you are…



I'M A WOMAN IN AN LTR. RECENTLY I HAD A discussion about anal sex with my guy. Knowing that I was a little nervous, he was GGG and let me experiment on him first. Well, it worked out great, and we both found pleasure in anal play. However, last time I was fingering him, I felt something different than normal. Instead of soft flesh, I felt something rough and uneven inside him. It took a moment, but I realized it was probably a shit! He didn't realize what was going on and wanted me to go deeper. I kept pleasing him, without going deeper, until he came, letting him enjoy the moment. But now I don't know what to do: Was that actually a shit in him? Is that normal? How should I handle a situation like that if it happens again?

Wary About Butts Now

Shit? You think? Right up there in your boyfriend's butt? Are you sure, WABN? I mean, it could have been a Braille dictionary you felt up there—they're pretty rough and uneven. Or an almond croissant. Or a twice-baked potato. Or a meteorite. I mean, the world is full of rough and uneven things, WABN, and frankly it's disturbing that you would assume it was shit you encountered in your boyfriend's ass. Or are you the type of girlfriend who always assumes the worst where her boyfriend is concerned? Do you never give him the benefit of the doubt?

Look, lady, anal play is swell and there are rewards for men and women willing to explore their rear ends. I speak of the kind of blue-state pleasures that can only be derived through the expert manipulation of 1) the butt's delicate nerve endings, 2) men's prostate glands, and 3) women's mysterious clitoral "wings" (the *exposed* bit of the clit is not the "man in the canoe," ladies and gentleman, only the top of the man's hat). The deliciously naughty sensa*tion/reputation* that comes with bursting the whole butt taboo is not to be underestimated either. But it's still an ass you're playing with, WABN, and barring radical elective surgery and a lifetime of changing colostomy bags, *shit comes with the territory.* This isn't something anal-sex fans celebrate (save for a few sickos), just something they come to grips with. So, yeah, that was shit you encountered, WABN. Get over it.

So how to handle this situation if it happens again? Repeat after me: Anal play—from JV fingers to varsity-level "Louisville Pluggers"—requires the temporary suspension of disbelief. It's a hole; a pleasure center; an entry, not an exit. When mature anal-sex fans encounter an unwelcome reminder of the lower GI's primary function—a rough and uneven lump, a sudden release of gas, a spreading santorum slick—they regard it as a sign from the anal-sex gods that the buttsex portion of the program is canceled. So the next time you encounter something rough and uneven in your boyfriend's ass—or if he ever encounters something rough and uneven in your own—don't keep digging around in there. However much your boyfriend may be enjoying the moment, the anal action is over. It is not disrespectful under the circumstances you've described to say, "You're not clean, sweetie," or, "There isn't room in there for me," or the simple and effective, "Occupied!" Suggest a quick break, maybe a shower, and laugh/wipe it off.

Have you heard about "the Pirate"? This is when you're getting a blowjob from a girl and, when you're about to come, you ejaculate in her eye. Then you kick her in the shin. The result is the woman squinting her eye and hopping up and down on one foot, holding her leg and screaming, "ARRRGH!" How many people are into this?

Jack Off Wangs

The Pirate. A Hot Karl. Donkey Punching. The Dirty Sanchez. Icy Mikes...

Not a day goes by that I don't get at least one question about a sex act that exists only in the imaginations of adolescent boys. I assure you, JOW, that no one has ever attempted "the Pirate," just as no one has ever performed a Hot Karl, delivered a Donkey Punch, or inserted an Icy Mike. They're all fictions. To demonstrate how easily a disgusting, fictitious sex act can be invented and disseminated, I've made one up myself: "The Louisville Plugger." It's too disgusting to describe even here. If anyone out there would like to know what the Louisville Plugger involves, send an e-mail to plugger@savagelove.net. I will e-mail you a description—hell, I'll send you a diagram. Then we can all sit back and see how long it takes for the Louisville Plugger to start coming up in conversations in gay bars, frat houses, and letters to sex-advice columnists.

I read your column about the scared-of-her-evil-scientist-fantasies girlfriend, and I felt compelled to add a non-sex-therapist woman's perspective. I agree that the sex therapist doesn't have anything helpful to say—see a therapist, overanalyze your feelings, blah, blah, blah—but it's possible that no amount of sex-fantasy role-play is going to help this man with his underlying problem. He's not happy with the amount of sex he's having. I think the sex-researcher-fantasy guilt is an excuse, plain and simple. I know because I've made similarly lame excuses. The mundane truth is that some women don't have high sex drives, at least compared to their horny boyfriends. If this relationship is the best he's ever had, he should compromise with his girlfriend and work on other ways of getting off.

Been There, Tried That Line

Thank god for sex experts since you clearly have no idea what you're talking about. Go for it? Are you an ass? UBOES' girlfriend said she didn't want to act on her fantasies and she shouldn't be coerced simply because her boyfriend is feeling undersexed. Deal with issues you know something about, Mr. Savage, and leave the real stuff to the experts. Or would that leave your column empty?

HB

Your advice to UBOES could not have been better. I appreciate you calling bullshit on the therapist, and your bonus experts reinforced an important point: There is always someone freakier than you out there, so accept your normalcy. I'm glad you're there to let people know that it's all going to be okay.

GC

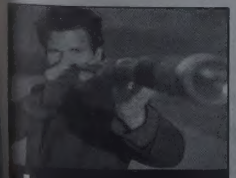
The classic schlock horror movie *Re-Animator* contains a scene that sounds like UBOES' girlfriend's fantasy: a severed yet "re-animated" head of an evil scientist forces a zombie father to strip his beautiful daughter so he, the evil head, can lick her naked body from the bedpan he's sitting in and—yes—even go down on her. Not only is it sick and horrifying, it's campy and hilarious. It might not make her feel less twisted, but it might help her relax.

Fun In Loving and Lusting

Quickly:

Good point, BTTTL: UBOES' girlfriend could be lying. But in most cases I have to assume that the facts, as presented in a letter, are accurate. Thanks, GC. Fuck off, HB. And finally, FILAL, I doubt watching a film in which the severed head of an evil scientist rapes a young woman with the help of the young woman's zombie father is going to make UBOES' girlfriend feel more relaxed. But thanks for sharing.

mail@savagelove.net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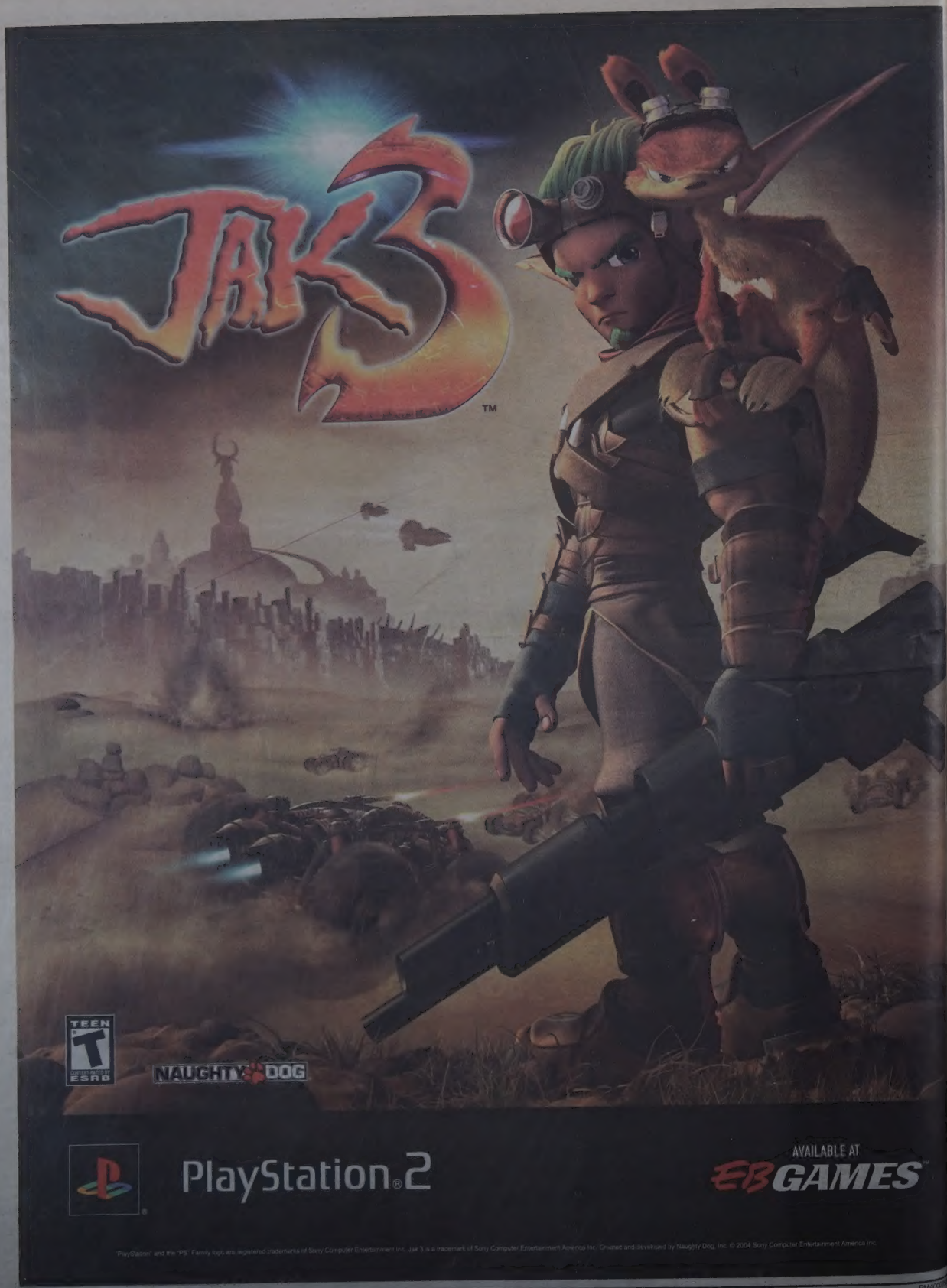
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